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DAILY REPORT

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LD161308 [Editorial Report]

Iran

Threat on French Ties — Iran indicated its intention to break diplomatic relations with France if the latter fails to remove barriers around the Iranian Embassy in Paris within 72 hours and does not punish "agents" responsible for the recent beating up of an Iranian diplomat in Geneva, IRNA reported. The Iranian threat was contained in a protest note handed to the French charge d'affaires in Tehran 16 July, the agency noted.

The threat to break relations followed a Tehran radio report that the Iranian diplomat who was "manhandled" by French police in Geneva was hospitalized in Tehran on account of his "severe injuries." Iranian authorities recently prevented two French Embassy employees from leaving Tehran, Paris radio revealed.

Reflagging — A Tehran radio commentary viewed the repeated postponement of the starting date for the U.S. plan to reflag Kuwaiti ships as evidence that the U.S. "ruling clique" is "extremely worried" about the "unknown consequences" of its decision and is trying to seek a suitable way to avoid the consequences.

Kuwait

Reflagging — A British Foreign Office spokesman confirmed that Britain has received an official request from Kuwait for the reflagging of Kuwaiti tankers, according to KUNA. Kuwait's oil minister said his country welcomes reflagging its tankers with any "Arab, Islamic, or friendly state" that is able to guarantee the safety of these tankers and their freedom of navigation in the Gulf, the agency noted.

Bomb Attack — An Interior Ministry official cited by KUNA announced that a 15 July car bomb explosion killed two people and damaged several shops.

USSR Relations — Kuwait's ambassador delivered a written message from Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, KUNA noted. The agency also cited an *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* editorial which urged the Soviet Union not to normalize diplomatic relations with Israel before curbing the latter's "aggressive" policy and thwarting the efforts of those opposed to the idea of an international conference.

Israel

The Tehiya Party will "almost certainly" submit a bill 22 July to dissolve the Knesset, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that this will give Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres the majority he is seeking for early elections. The Tehiya secretariat's decision in this regard follows the government's failure to meet Tehiya's demand for a 100 million dollars budget to fund new Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir viewed Tehiya's move as an "historical mistake," the radio noted, but Likud leaders believe that Tehiya will not ultimately assist in toppling the Shamir government.

Syria

Ozal Visit — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said his current visit to Syria is "extremely important for reviewing positive developments" between Syria and Turkey, Damascus radio noted in a report on Ozal's arrival. If the two countries "think positively," they will be able to settle their "small differences," which are "not complex problems," Ozal added. Reporting on Ozal's talks with the Syrian prime minister, Ankara radio disclosed that border security was among the issues discussed, noting that Ozal referred to the presence in Syria of the leader of "those who carry out activities against Turkey." However, in remarks broadcast by the radio earlier, Ozal had stressed that "there is no question of involving Syria" in recent incidents in southeastern Turkey as there is "no evidence" for this. Ozal said he was pointing this out in response to recent Turkish press allegations that Syria is to blame in this matter.

Gulf Diplomacy — Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' delivered messages from President Hafiz al-Asad to Saudi King Fahd and to Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir, according to SPA and KUNA. Al-Shar' told KUNA that his message to the Kuwaiti amir dealt with the current situation in the Gulf.

Praise for EC — The EC states' decision to resume ministerial contacts with Syria is a "positive decision" that will promote consultations and cooperation in the search for a true peace in the Middle East, *Al-Thawrah* stated in an editorial cited by Damascus radio. The paper viewed the decision as proof that the EC states believe Syria is "exonerated" of the accusation that it is connected with terrorism.

Egypt

Reporting on the current interrogation of 15 terrorist suspects, Al-Sharq al-Awsat said the defendants have admitted to placing explosives outside the Egyptian-American bank and to planning to blow up a tourist bus in Sinai.

Lebanon: Karami Investigation

A Lebanese Army sergeant employed as a mechanic at Adma air base has been arrested by the judicial investigator and charged with facilitating Prime Minister Rashid Karami's assassination, Beirut radio reported 16 July.

Terrorist Group Admits Planning Operations

NC160815 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jul 87 p 1

[Excerpts] Cairo, *(Al-Sharq al-Awsat* office) — The current investigation into the activities of members of the terrorist organization recently uncovered in Lower Egypt has revealed their plans to commit a number of crimes to create an atmosphere of "illusory" instability in Egypt.

During the investigation, which is being conducted by the Egyptian state security prosecutor, the defendants admitted to placing explosives outside the Egyptian-American Bank last year to destroy it. They also planned to blow up a tourist bus in southern Sinai, and further admitted to planning a number of violent acts to occur immediately following the Al-Adha holiday.

The state security investigators discovered a large quantity of explosives, automatic weapons, various daggers, and a number of mine-detecting spits in the defendants' homes.

Of the 15 defendants who have been arrested, 3 belong to the same family, 2 are brothers, and another is a fugitive lawyer. There is also an employee of the Cinema Institute among their number. [passage omitted]

A security source in Cairo disclosed that the members of this organization belong to different nationalities, including Iranian, Jordanian, and Palestinian. They were recruited into the organization after being tempted with money. [passage omitted]

The source added that the Egyptian security authorities uncovered this organization approximately 1 month ago when information gathered by the pertinent authorities confirmed that the Iranian charge d'affaires in Cairo was supplying money to the organization's members. This funding was to be used to carry out terrorist operations against the interests of some foreign states in Egypt. These activities, which contravened normal diplomatic practice, prompted the Egyptian authorities to expel him from the country. [passage omitted]

The source explained that information is currently being gathered from the organization's members to determine whether there is any connection between this group and the recent attack on U.S. diplomats, the attempt to assassinate journalist Makram Muhammad Ahmad, the assassination of Israel's administrative attache in Al-Ma'adi in 1985, and the shooting of Israeli Embassy employees outside the Cairo Fairgrounds in 1986.

'Abd al-Majid Returns From Austria, Views Visit

NC151547 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Cairo this afternoon from Austria following a 3-day visit. He stated that President Mubarak had held intensive talks in the SFRY and Geneva. 'Abd al-Majid noted that, at President Mubarak's request, he had traveled to London and conveyed a message from the president to His Majesty King Husayn. The message, he noted, briefed the Jordanian monarch on results of Mubarak's talks in Belgrade and Geneva. 'Abd al-Majid pointed out that he then paid an official visit to Austria and conveyed an invitation from President Mubarak to President Waldheim to visit Cairo. This would take place on a date to be set following consultations between Cairo and Vienna.

'Abd al-Majid stated that during his visit to Austria, he met with the Austrian prime minister, the deputy prime minister, and the foreign and interior ministers to discuss bilateral relations.

'Abd al-Majid Calls Talks 'Indisputable Reality'

NC160936 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has affirmed that the international Middle East peace conference has become an indisputable reality. He explained that some issues experiencing opposition have grown more acceptable to all parties concerned, especially the idea of a conference itself.

In a statement published by the Abu Dhabi newspaper *Al-Ittihad* today, Dr 'Abd al-Majid announced that there are other issues pertaining to the conference which are still the subject of consideration and consultations, including the conference's role, jurisdiction, and function.

Departs for Israel 'Next Week'

NC161345 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will visit Israel next week at the Israeli Government's invitation.

In a statement to MENA, a responsible Egyptian source declared that the 2-day visit aims at giving impetus to convening an international Middle East peace conference and thus achieve a comprehensive, just, and peaceful settlement of conflicts.

In preparation for his visit to Israel, 'Abd al-Majid today received Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni, who briefed him on relations between the two countries and developments in the peace process. The meeting was also attended by Ambassador 'Amru Musa, director of the Foreign Ministry's Organizations Department [idarat al-hay'aat], and Ministers Plenipotentiary Husayn Hassunah and Samir Sayf al-Yazal.

Tripoli Views Vernon Walters' 'Suspect Mission'

LD111630 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Every now and then the U.S. Administration sends out envoys in an obvious act of interference practiced by suspect missions. We would not be saying anything new if we stated that all of these missions have been linked to well-known black events and disasters that affected more than one Arab arena: from Kissingers' shuttles, the Stable David accords, Philip Habib's missions, and the Zionists' invasion of Lebanon, to the explosions that shake Lebanon whenever a new tour to the region by Richard Murphy is announced.

While none of this is new, it is important to unmask the suspect mission carried out by Vernon Walters, the envoy of the U.S. Administration and its CIA. We have the right to completely forcefully ask what this racist Zionist, who detests the Arabs, has come for. When we ask this question, we do not mean to view Walters' presence as an event separate from regional developments. Indeed, we instead logically and objectively link it to previous suspect missions carried out by this racist and within the sphere of U.S. aggressive designs against the Arab nation. We do not need to go very far back in history to prove what we say.

Walters was one of the principal criminals who helped in preparing the U.S.-NATO aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah. Following the aggression, he toured Europe to lead a campaign aimed at containing reaction against the aggression and one calling for an economic blockade against the Great Jamahiriyah.

This rancorous American, whom we view as a criminal whose hands, like those of his masters, are still smeared with the blood of our people, is the same American who a few months ago led a nasty and hostile campaign against some who are the objects of his current visit. He more than once spoke most insolently in declaring his administration's rejection of the international community's resolutions censuring the Zionist enemy and supporting the Arab right and the Arab cause's legitimacy.

In view of this, we are fully entitled to ask what the Arabs still hope to get from the United States, which has affirmed through its proxy plans and practices against Arabs that it has nothing for them but evil, devastation, and misery. There is an Arab strategy that accepts nothing less than domination of the Arab nation and the enabling of its strategic ally, the Zionist enemy, to consecrate its occupation of Arab lands and to expand this occupation to serve U.S. goals. This strategy totally contradicts all efforts to create friendship between the United States and those concerned, including even those who at one time or another believed they were true agents of the U.S. Administration. They have declared on more than one occasion that their hopes have been frustrated. This is because the U.S. enemy of the Arabs does not distinguish between one Arab and another, as (Edward Lesak), a U.S. Administration official behind this strategy, has stated. He also declared that an Egyptian, for example, should not be treated as though he were a Dane.

In view of this, it is essential to call on all Arabs to face up to U.S. hostility by imposing an overall boycott of the U.S. Administration, its envoys, and the representatives of its economic and political interests no matter what the cost and no matter what guise they have adopted.

Nicaraguan Vice President Continues Visit

Cooperation Talks Open

LD131333 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1157 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Jul (JANA) — Libyan Arab-Nicaraguan talks began at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison headquarters this morning within the framework of consolidating bilateral relations between the Great Libyan Jamahiriyah and Nicaragua in both friendly countries' interests.

The meeting was attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Service, a member of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, and a number of technicians from various secretariats. Nicaragua was represented by Sergio Ramirez, vice president of the Republic, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides stressed the need for joint action to implement all programs and agreements reached at special meetings, to reinforce joint ventures to enable goals to be achieved, and to strengthen bilateral cooperation in both friendly countries' interests.

Ramirez Ends Visit, Departs

LD131746 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Jul (JANA) — Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez departed Tripoli this afternoon following the conclusion of his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. In a statement to a JANA correspondent while departing Tripoli International Airport, Sergio Ramirez stressed that this short visit was both positive and fruitful, and an occasion to reinforce relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Nicaragua.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Greetings to Iraqi President

LD151042 Tripoli JANA in English 0935 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, Nasser [July] 15, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution has sent a congratulatory message to President Saddam Husayn on the 29th. anniversary of the 14th. July Revolution.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Palestinian Leaders

LD151728 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received DFLF Secretary General Brother Na'if Hawatimah. The brother leader of the revolution also received Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestine Popular Struggle Front.

SPLA Claims Capture of Southern Border Town

EA141650 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Jul 87

[Excerpt] The town of Ikoto in Torit District has been captured by the SPLA following bitter fighting.

A radio SPLA correspondent says that Ikoto fell to the combined SPLA forces of Tingili, Mukshashah, Tafeng, (Sertenya), and Sunki Battalions under the overall command of Lieutenant Colonel Glario Modi Warinyang on 5th July 1987, after 75 enemy soldiers and 200 militiamen were killed. Fifty-five survivors from among the enemy troops ran towards (Sertenya) on the Sudan-Uganda border. Meanwhile, a number of wounded enemy soldiers have sought refuge in a nearby cave. [passage omitted]

'Obstacles' to Trade With USSR Discussed

JN151949 Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum July 15 (SUNA) — Ministry of Commerce undersecretary discussed here today (Wednesday) with the Soviet ambassador to Sudan means of activating trade exchange between Sudan and the Soviet Union within the framework of the trade protocol signed by the two countries last year.

The Soviet ambassador told (SUNA) after the meeting that the encounter focused on the promotion of bilateral trade relations on the basis [of] reciprocal respect and common interest. The Soviet diplomat referred to some distortions on the media level which he said had accompanied the implementation of the trade protocol, and pointed out that the delay of the protocol was not attributed to the Soviet side. He said that the two sides have reached a conviction that the obstacles facing the implementation of the protocol should be removed as soon as possible. The Soviet diplomat did not however disclose the nature of those obstacles, but said the Sudanese side would take the necessary measures needed for the salvage of the protocol.

Official Returns From UK, Egypt Visits

JN141136 Khartoum SUNA in English 0940 GMT 14 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, Jul 14 (SUNA) — Member of the Council of State, Dr. 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, who returned here Monday [13 July], after having concluded a special visit that covered Egypt and Britain, stated that he had held successful meetings with Egyptian president, Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and briefed him on the developments the Sudan has witnessed during the past year of the democratic rule.

The member of the Council of State also said he had discussed with President Mubarak the means capable of translating the recently signed brotherhood charter into projects and institutions serving the two countries' peoples.

Dr. Taj al-Din further said that high-ranking preparatory committees were set up in the two countries to work out, during July and next August, working papers to be presented to the anticipated meeting in Khartoum between the prime minister, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, and his Egyptian counterpart. The member of the Council of State said that each of Sudan and Egypt constitute strategic depth to the other. Dr. Taj al-Din also said that Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had called on the Sudanese Government towards translating the brotherhood charter into concrete reality.

Prime Minister, Delegation Begin SFRY Visit

For Yugoslav media coverage of the visit by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to the SFRY, including his talks with Federal Executive Council President Branko Mikulic and State President Lazar Mojsov, see the Yugoslavia section of the 15 July East Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Saharan People's Army Reports Combat Successes

7 Jul Attack in Tichla Noted

LD090906 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] The Saharan Ministry of Information yesterday issued a communique that reported the Saharan People's Liberation Army had inflicted huge losses on the Moroccan monarchist invasion forces stationed in the Tichla region, in the SADR's south. The communique added that during the attack, which came under the framework of the Great Arab Maghreb offensive, the Saharan People's Liberation Army managed to occupy a 40-km long front inside the sixth wall. It additionally inflicted huge human and material losses on the invasion forces. The communique stated that the Saharan fighters were also able to capture tens of Moroccan soldiers and seize an important quantity of varied weaponry. The communique pointed out that further details of these operations will later be published.

13 Jul Fighting Reported

LD151021 Algiers APS in Arabic 0830 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] [No dateline as received] — A Saharan Ministry of Information communique announced that 438 Moroccan soldiers were taken out of action, including 38 taken prisoner, in an operation launched Monday [13 July] by the Saharan People's Army against Moroccan forces stationed at Hofrat Ishiaf [name as received] in the Oum Dreiga region. Those captured included one captain, one officer, and one sergeant.

During the attack, the Saharan fighters destroyed 6 tanks, 105 assault tanks, 4 troop transporters, 5 Land Rovers, 3 Toyotas, 4 ammunition dumps, 4 water tanks, and a number of small and large arms.

The communique added that the Saharan fighters seized a large quantity of equipment.

Saharan Defense Minister Cited

LD160943 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Excerpts] The royal Moroccan regime suffers new military and diplomatic defeats due to the courage of the Polisario Front revolutionaries and the justice of the Saharan cause.

Within 1 week, the Saharan Liberation Army lauched two major attacks against Moroccan forces in Tichla and Oum Dreiga. It managed to penetrate the Moroccan defense wall and inflict heavy material and human losses upon the Moroccan Army. Saharan Defense Minister Brahim Ghali stated that the two attacks on Tichla and Oum Dreiga resulted in the death of about 1,000 Moroccan soldiers, including officers and noncommissioned officers. The Saharan minister explained that during the battle of Tichla, 585 Moroccans were killed and 73 others were captured. Large quantities of arms were also destroyed. [passage omitted]

Brahim Ghali pointed out that the victories were achieved by the Saharan Popular Liberation Army despite the fact that the Moroccan forces had known of the first attack 4 days before its start. The Saharan forces also triumphed despite the fact that the Moroccan Army benefits from modern means of observation acquired from developed nations. The Saharan defense minister declared that the Saharan Popular Army's strategy, thorough knowledge of the terrain, and the new ways of war allowed it to master the situation. Brahim Ghali stressed that the Saharan forces will intensify their attacks due to their good control of the Moroccan defense means [as heard] and their knowledge of Moroccan defense shortcomings and gaps.

In the meantime, King Hassan II's visit to Britain met a wave of protest by a number of members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. In a document delivered yesterday to Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe, 100 MP's and 50 political figures expressed their support for the Saharan people's right to self-determination and the efforts exerted for implementing the United Nations and OAU resolutions calling for direct talks between the Polisario Front and Morocco. These talks would determine cease-fire measures and organize a free referendum granting the Saharan people self-determination free from any military or administrative pressures.

Polisario Protests French Arms Sales to Morocco

LD111422 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] The Polisario Front has just sent an open letter to President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac expressing its astonishment on learning that France will provide Morocco with new missiles. The Polisario asks how one can claim to be neutral in a conflict when they arm one of the involved parties. The letter also recalls the various stages of French-Moroccan military cooperation since 1975.

KUWAIT

Government Asks UK To Reflag Tankers in Gulf

LD151914 Kuwait KUNA in English 1749 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] London, July 15 (KUNA) — The British Government said Wednesday that it has received an official request from Kuwait for reflagging of Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf.

Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi made a request yesterday during his meeting with the British ambassador in that Arab Gulf state, Peter Hinchcliffe, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

The spokesman pointed out that "it was explained to Al-'Usaymi that it was not a matter for the British Government.

"It would be a commercial operation which should be pursued with commercial organisations, although the Department of Transport regulation on safety and other matters would naturally have to be met", he added.

Meanwhile, British sources indicated that if the Kuwaitis wanted to choose to register their ships with British companies they would have to meet these safety requirements.

"There is no reason why they should not have the right to do so", the sources commented.

They explained that British law requires the setting up of a company in the UK through which this registration could take place.

Last weekend, the newly appointed ambassador to Kuwait, Hinchcliffe said in an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper, *Al-Anba'*, that the "British Government would consider a reflagging request if one were made".

The United States has agreed to fly its flag on 11 Kuwaiti-owned tankers and give them naval escort in an operation due to begin later this month.

More than 300 merchant ships have been hit as a result of the Gulf war in the Gulf since 1984.

Minister Welcomes Foreign Flags

LD151400 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1209 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Jul (KUNA) — Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Adbi al-Sabah announced here today that Kuwait welcomes the hoisting of the flag of any Arab, Islamic, or friendly state on its oil tankers if this state is able to guarantee the safety of these tankers and their freedom of navigation in the Arab Gulf waters.

Replying to the question of whether Kuwait's request for hoisting foreign flags on its oil tankers is restricted to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa informed KUNA "that Kuwait welcomes the hoisting of any Arab, Islamic, or friendly states' flag on its tankers if these states are able to guarantee the safety of these tankers when sailing in Arab Gulf waters."

He also said: "Kuwait is ready to give priority to hoisting the flags of any of these Arab, Islamic, or friendly states on its tankers over the flags of the superpowers."

Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa affirmed: "What is important to Kuwait is that its tankers and crude oil arrive safely at their natural markets throughout the world."

Navy Commander Interviewed on Sea Mines, Plans

JN151107 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 14 Jul 87 pp 12, 13

[Interview with Commodore Habib al-Mil, commander of the Kuwaiti Navy, by 'Adnan al-Rashid in Kuwait — date not given]

[Text] [Al-Rashid] It was announced recently that there are sea mines in Kuwaiti territorial waters. What types of mines are they and how did you tackle them?

[Al-Mil] As a result of the war in the area between Iraq and Iran and as part of the military measures by the two belligerents, the Khawr 'Abdallah area was mined by the Iraqi and Iranian sides so the navies of either side would not be able to use the area. As a result of the southern winds and strong currents in Khawr 'Abdallah, the mines were swept into our territorial waters. Several were detonated at various distances from the Kuwaiti coast and islands.

Mines were also found in the deep channel area of the Al-Ahmadi and Al-Shu'aybah Ports and were detonated by firing at them or carefully defused depending on the type of mine, its size, and location.

[Al-Rashid] Can you briefly explain what types of sea mines there are in general and specify the types of mines you found in our territoiral waters?

[Al-Mil] There are various types of mines that can be defined as follows:

1. Contact mines [algham tasadumiyah] are activated on impact with solid objects. Usually, such mines are tied to a weight beneath the water, float above the surface of the water and move with the current, or are tied and float beneath the water surface and move with the current.

2. Seabed mines [algham qa'iya] are planted in the seabed and are also called sonic mines [algham sawtiyah] because they are activated by the sound of a ship's propeller.

3. Magnetic mines are affected by the magnetism of ships and solid objects.

4. Pressure mines [algham daghtiyah] are activated by the ship's water pressure on the sensitive part of the mine.

The types of mines found in our territorial waters were three-pronged and five-pronged contact mines of various weights and sizes. The quantity of the explosives in the five-pronged mine was estimated at 115 kg.

[Al-Rashid] While we are discussing sea mines, what are the results of your coordination with the Coast Guard on protection against mines and what is the extent of citizens' cooperation in this regard?

[Al-Mil] We are constantly coordinating with the Coast Guard. There is no direct contact between us and citizens. Warnings are issued through the local media noting restricted locations that must not be approached because mines may be in the area. Prohibited areas where no fishing boats or fishermen are allowed have been marked. There has been close cooperation between citizens and the Coast Guard particularly with regard to the departure of small boats on picnics or fishing for Al-Haddaq fish.

[Al-Rashid] The protection of the GCC states' territorial waters is the responsibility of the forces of these states. What is the extent of cooperation between you and similar forces in the Armed Forces of the GCC states?

[Al-Mil] Undoubtedly there is cooperation between our Navy and the Navies of our brothers in the GCC states, just as there is cooperation among various other branches of the Armed Forces. Working groups have been formed for all issues related to the Navy. As a result, the Navies of the GCC states have carried out joint exercises. For instance, the Kuwaiti Navy has carried out joint exercises in our territorial waters with the Saudi Royal Navy, the Qatari Navy, and the Omani Navy. Regular contact and meetings are held with all naval operations centers of the GCC states.

[Al-Rashid] What measures are taken when boats infiltrating our territorial waters are discovered?

[Al-Mil] Watching over and protecting our territorial waters against infiltration by individuals and boats is within the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard. In view of the enormous responsibility, there is close cooperation between the Coast Guard and our men in combating all forms of infiltration. Our boats watch the approaches to Kuwaiti territorial waters and search ships heading for Kuwait. If violations occur or if the perpetrators of such violations are aboard the ships, the vessels are towed to the Navy Command and their crews are referred to the competent officials who adopt the necessary measures.

[Al-Rashid] How much has the Navy benefited from draftees in officer and other ranks?

[Al-Mil] The Navy benefits a great deal from the draftees. At first the draftees are sent to the naval academy and courses are organized for them. They are then transferred and distributed among various sections. Draftees work on ships and support vessels and in the Navy's services, while others work in various workshops. There are also draftees in the defense squads, the operations center, and in various sections. Special courses which help to enhance their combat capability have been organized for them at the naval academy.

[Al-Rashid] What are the future plans to develop the Navy qualitatively and quantitatively?

[Al-Mil] Although the Navy is still young, it has made swift, balanced progress and as a result the leadership's interest in the Navy has increased. The leadership appreciates the efforts of the sincere men of the Navy who do all they can for Kuwait and the people of Kuwait.

Planning for the future is natural. Aspiring for improvement is the goal of every man in the Navy. There are plans to increase the number of speed boats for patrol duties. There is an ongoing training and specialization program to raise the combat and technical performance of the men according to need and circumstances.

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives on 'Brief' Visit

LD151918 Kuwait KUNA in English 1636 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, July 15 (KUNA) — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived here Wednesday from Saudi Arabia on a brief visit to Kuwait.

Al-Shar' was greeted on arrival by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, acting Foreign Undersecretary Faysal al-Salah al-Mutawa and a number of officials at the Foreign Ministry.

Al-Shar' has visited Iran Monday and held talks with Iranian officials on the developments in the Arabian Gulf and the Iran-Iraq war.

Delivers Al-Asad Letter to Amir

LD151925 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1805 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait 15/7/(KUNA) — This evening, Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah received a letter from President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, the contents of which have not been revealed.

The letter was delivered by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' when he met Shaykh Jabir this evening. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr 'Isa Darwish, the Syrian ambassador to Kuwait.

Al-Shar' arrived here earlier from Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia.

Ends Visit, Departs

LD152106 Kuwait KUNA in English 1855 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, July 15 (KUNA) — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left here tonight after a short visit to the country during which he conveyed a message to his highness the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Shar', upon departure, told *Kuwait News Agency* (KUNA) the message dealt with current situation in the Gulf area "and I

was briefed on his highness' point of view vis-a-vis recent developments in the area."

The Syrian minister said his highness the amir has handed him a reply message addressed to Al-Asad.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials as well as Syrian Ambassador to Kuwait 'Isa Darwish saw Al-Shar' off.

Booby-Trapped Car Explodes in Commercial Area

LD152107 Kuwait KUNA in English 2027 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, July 15 (KUNA) — An Interior Ministry official said that a booby-trapped car exploded at 9.30 p.m. (local time) today in an open area in front of one of the commercial complexes in Al-Salihiya area.

The source told KUNA that the blast killed two people and inflicted material damage in facades of a number of nearby shops.

Security men and fire brigades rushed to the scene and immediately started investigation into the incident, he concluded.

PDRY

Aden Radio Scores U.S. 'Military Buildup' in Gulf

EA152048 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Jul 87

[From "A Report and a Comment" program]

[Text] Naval units are continuing to sail into the Arab Gulf. Reports indicate that a U.S. aircraft carrier, accompanied by four other warships, is on its way there via the Suez Canal. The continued dispatch of these warships is part of the U.S. plan to reinforce its military presence, while international efforts are being made to reduce the acute tension in the area. Because of the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war and of imperialist interference in the affairs of its peoples, the area has become one of the most dangerously explosive hotbeds of tension.

Despite condemnation by the peoples of the area and world public opinion of the increasing military presence in the Arab Gulf area, the United States is recklessly continuing to increase its military presence in an unparalleled manner, thus prompting unprecedented concern. Moreover, this is raising many questions as to the justification of its foolhardy and its (?chaotic) objectives. In the face of U.S. insistence on concentrating these armadas in one area, the complicated international situation, and the escalation of the ongoing war, observers view these U.S. actions as exceeding the stated justification by the U.S. Administration for its military presence. The justification given is to guarantee the flow of oil to the United States, Europe, and Japan by protecting tankers from potential attack. The U.S. has exceeded this stated justification particularly if we consider the continuing international efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war and the repeated calls for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Arab Gulf.

This is the more so true because of what is looming on the horizon, namely an agreement by the contending parties to accept the basic principles of halting the deterioration of the situation and refrain from any action representing a potential threat to international shipping in the Gulf.

This increasing U.S. military buildup cannot be interpreted other than as aimed at achieving other, greater purposes and carrying out strategic plots with the dangerous objectives of controlling the area and its resources. That is to say it is the start of a large-scale process of occupation that includes the participation of allied forces and imposition of a policy of fait accompli by military force.

U.S. imperialism has found, in the complicated political and military circumstances that have arisen in the Arab Gulf area, a favorable opportunity for imposing its interference and its military presence, and achieving its ambitions. It may also be said that U.S. imperialism has been the main cause of the development and complication of these political and military circumstances. It is a matter that international circles, progressive forces, and world peace movements have already warned of.

By these dangerous actions U.S. imperialism will strive to create a general atmosphere of terrorism against the peoples of the area, disturb the security and stability there, and a pose dangerous threat to world peace. In the end, imperialism will not achieve its objectives because the wheel of history cannot be turned back. The era of colonialism and military control over peoples has passed and this is what imperialism has failed to understand from its aggressive colonialist experiences in numerous countries of the world, headed by Vietnam and Cuba. The peoples of the area still hold the initiative when the situation deteriorates because they have understood well the dangerous colonialist objectives of U.S. imperialism.

Communique Issued on Talks With Somali Delegation

EA151534 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Jul 87

[Text] The PDRY and the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] have announced their agreement to form a ministerial committee, headed by their foreign ministers, to study ways of strengthening bilateral relations. They also stressed the importance of sustained efforts to implement what was agreed upon during the visit of Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, to the SDR in December 1986. This was declared in a news communique issued today on the official talks held in Aden between the delegations of Democratic Yemen led by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, and Dr 'Abd al-Rahman Jama Barreh, the SDR foreign minister, during his visit to Democratic Yemen.

The communique said the two sides had reviewed the Arab situation and emphasized the need to hold an Arab summit to achieve Arab solidarity, overcome all obstacles to the unity of the Arab ranks and strengthen Arab joint action in confronting the threats to the Arab nation.

They also stressed support for the Palestinian Arab peoples just struggle under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative against the Zionist enemy and for their right to self-determination and independent state on their land. They stressed the importance of continuing efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of all concerned, including the PLO.

The two sides emphasized the importance of continuing to apply the principle of peaceful negotiations to resolve conflicts between African states with the aim of guaranteeing total stability and a genuine, just, and permanent peace leading to fruitful cooperation in the interests of the peoples of the region.

They expressed concern over the continuing Iraq-Iran war and support for international efforts to end it. They appealed to the two sides to urgently work for a peaceful resolution of this destructive war.

The two sides called for the Indian Ocean, Red Sea, and Arab Gulf to be left free from all forms of tension and transformed into a region of stability, security, and peace.

They also renewed their support for the just and lawful struggle by all peoples subjected to colonialism and apartheid for self-determination and their right to liberation, progress, and peace.

SAUDI ARABIA

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives in Al-Ta'if

LD151126 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1025 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 15 July (SPA) — His Excellency Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Al-Ta'if at noon today on a visit to the Kingdom.

He was welcomed on arrival at Al-Ta'if Airport in Al-Hawiyya by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; the delegate for Royal Protocol; and Muhammad al-Dabbagh, the director of Al-Ta'if Airport.

Delivers Al-Asad Message to King

LD151435 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1025 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 15 Jul (SPA) — King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, received a message from His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' when the king, may God protect him, received Al-Shar' at the Al-'Aqiq Palace in Al-Ta'if this afternoon.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD151659 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 15 Jul (SPA) — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left Al-Ta'if after a short visit to the Kingdom during which he delivered a letter to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, from President Hafiz al-Asad. He was seen off at Al-Ta'if Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and a royal protocol official.

Foreign Minister Meets With GCC's Bisharah

LD151415 Kuwait KUNA in English 1054 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Riyadh, July 15 (KUNA) — GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah has met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and visiting Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, it was officially reported here Wednesday.

The Gulf Cooperation Council General Secretariat said that Bisharah and Al-Faysal held a meeting in Al-Ta'if yesterday where talks centered on the developments of the situation in the Gulf region in light of the GCC Ministerial Council's resolutions that were taken during its recent meeting.

Bisharah and Klibi meeting which was held in the same city yesterday tackled the latest development on the Arab arena in particular and world's situation in general.

The General Secretariat noted that both secretary generals have agreed on exchanging the existing cooperation between the Arab League and GCC providing the latter completes the march of the Arab body.

A delegation led by GCC Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs Sa'if ibn Hashel al-Maskari will pay a visit to the Arab League premises in Tunisia to maintain coordination and increase consultation on Arab issues, the Secretariat said.

Bisharah will leave for Bahrain tonight to brief officials there on "the latest contacts made within the framework of the GCC," the General Secretariat concluded.

Iran's Karrubi To Hold 'Demonstrations' in Mecca

NC160723 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Summary From Poor Reception] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mahdi Karrubi, the imam's representative to the two holy mosques in Mecca and Al-Madinah and head of Iranian pilgrims, arrived in holy Al-Madinah last night, accompanied by his entourage. He was welcomed by the officials of the Headquarters of the Hajj, Endowments, and Charitabbel Trusts located in Al-Madinah.

Upon his arrival in Al-Madinah, he addressed a gathering of devotees and expressed the hope that the Hajj will be carried out in an appropriate manner, and said: "We will hold unity rallies in holy Al-Madinah and marches and demonstrations in holy

Mecca this year as well." He turned to the role of the clergy and expressed the hope that with the efforts of all concerned the Hajj will be "better than in past years."

The Iranian pilgrims to holy Al-Madinah in Saudi Arabia will join pilgrims from all over the world in visiting the holy places there.

Monetary Agency Report on 1986 Economic Results
LD152158 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0805 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] Riyadh, 10 Jul (SPA) — The real compound average growth rate of the Kingdom's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the first three development plans was 6.9 percent.

The annual report for the year 1986 published by the Saudi Monetary Agency (SAMA) attributed this to the real growth rates of 1.8 percent, 12.5 percent, and 9.8 percent in the oil, public, and private sectors. The report pointed out that, despite the fact that the oil sector was the indirect impetus because it provided the financial resources necessary for the start of the development operation, its direct contribution to the escalating growth of the GDP was relatively meager. The report pointed out that thanks to the foreign currency reserves, which had accumulated during the oil boom as a result of the government's foresight, the annual 14.5 percent decline in the GDP in the oil sector during the third development plan did not have an acute effect on the non-oil sector. It made a 6.2 percent positive growth contribution to the non-oil GDR during the third development plan.

The report referred to the growth of the GDP in the public sector and pointed out that it was 2.8 percent, while the growth rate of the GDP in the private sector reached 7.8 percent. It noted that there was an ordinary progress and regress relationship here for about a year between the oil and public sectors, and between the private and public sectors. The overall GDP, that is oil plus non-oil, recorded an 8.7 percent negative growth rate as a result of a decline of 15.1 percent and 6 percent, respectively, in the oil and non-oil sectors, according to the report.

While the decline of 1.7 percent in the GDP of the non-oil private sector was less than in the year 1984-85 in comparison with its equivalent in the GDP of the public sector, which was 4.5 percent, the private sector has overcome its lag in the year 1985-86 in a manner that has reversed the situation. The 3.7 percent decline in the GDP of the public sector was less in 1985-86 than its equivalent in the private non-oil sector, which was 7.8 percent. It is expected that the private sector will catch up with the positive trend after the normal temporary lag period.

With regard to agriculture, public utilities, and the oil refining industry, the report said they recorded positive growth in the year 1985-86. The agricultural and public utilities sectors recorded high growth rates: 13 percent and 11.4 percent, respectively, while the oil refining sector recorded a growth rate of 2 percent. The growth rates recorded by all remaining sectors of the economy were negative, according to the report. The highest rate of decline, 20 percent, was recorded in the construction sector. The lowest rate of decline, 0.8 percent, was recorded in the social and personal services sector. Other negative growth rates were in transportation, storage, and communications — 11.8 percent; wholesale and retail trade, restaurants, and hotels — 11.8 percent; and finance, insurance, real estate, and business services 2.5 percent.

Perhaps it is sound to say that the great declines recorded in the transportation and trade sectors were to a great extent influenced by the construction sector. The report pointed out that the economy is once again heading for better conditions in the near future. It said it is possible that OPEC's agreement of December 1986 would facilitate growth in the oil sector. It is also expected that the private and public sectors will follow suit in the familiar time succession and lead the economy toward growth in the very near future.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Bangladesh President Arrives, Makes Statement
JN152001 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, president of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, arrived in Sanaa at 1500 today. He is leading a high-ranking delegation on an official visit to our country at the invitation of Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. President Salih led a grand official and popular reception for the great guest at Sanaa International Airport. [passage omitted on reception ceremony]

In a statement to SABA', His Excellency President Hussain Mohammad Ershad expressed his great pleasure at visiting our country at the invitation of Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He indicated that the warm welcome accorded him is evidence of the cordial relations linking the two fraternal countries and peoples. The Bangladesh president added: I am conveying the Bangladesh people's greetings to the fraternal Yemeni people. These two peoples are linked by bonds of friendship whose traditional roots extend deep in history, culture, and religion. He pointed out that both countries have Islamic values. He also said both countries work within the ICO and other organizations to achieve the Islamic nation's unity, peace, and solidarity.

President Ershad added that the two fraternal countries hold identical views on Third World issues. The policies of both are characterized by coordination and full understanding in the various international fora which are part of the Nonaligned Movement. He indicated that the two fraternal countries are linked by close ties. These relations have steadily developed

throughout the past. These ties are currently deep-rooted. They are expanding through cooperation and understanding. He stressed that bilateral cooperation can be boosted in several areas. He added: The regular bilateral contacts on the various levels will help strengthen bilateral ties. He indicated that during this visit he will review numerous issues of common concern with his Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and other officials in our country.

His Excellency President Hussain Mohammad Ershad praised our country's social, economic, and cultural progress under the wise leadership of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He indicated in this regard that his country has made tangible progress in a number of areas. President Ershad said his country is working to create an atmosphere of trust and understanding with the neighboring countries. He stated that Bangladesh believes peace and security can be achieved only through all states' full abidance by the charters of the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement and through noninterference in others' affairs.

Concluding, President Ershad stressed that ties between the YAR and Bangladesh will be further promoted for the peace and prosperity of the two fraternal countries and peoples.

The delegation accompanying the president is comprised of Brothers M. A. Mannan, minister of religious affairs; Eng Mohammad Abdul Jabbar and Qazi Shah Motabbal Hussain, member of Parliament; Hidayat Ahmad, Bangladesh ambassador in Sanaa; Amin Islam, under secretary of the Ministry of Labor and Manpower; and Harun al-Rashid, assistant under secretary of the Foreign Ministry.

Participants in Libyan Cultural Week Arrive

LD151508 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Sanaa, Nasser [July] 15, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The participants in the Libyan Arab cultural week to be held in northern Yemen arrived in Sanaa yesterday.

The secretary of the People's Committee for Information, Culture and Revolutionary Guidance have stressed that this cultural week indicates the deep significance of the brotherly relations of the Libyan Arab people and the people of Yemen. Such relations stems from the same Arab origin of the humanitarian culture.

On arriving there, she has stressed in her comments to pressmen that the Arab background of the two peoples will provide great opportunities to make this cultural week successful.

Mention should be made that the Yemeni cultural week was held in great Jamahiriyah during the period 18-25 in Al-Tayr [April] month in the current year during which many cultural, intellectual and literary activities were concluded displaying the original folklore of the Yemeni people.

Communique No 2,745 Notes Rostam Oil Field Raid

JN151744 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1600 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Communique No 2,745 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 15 July 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces are continuing their combat activities in defense of the dear homeland. The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. Our great people are experiencing overwhelming joy in the celebration of their glorious revolution's anniversary. Our valiant Armed Forces have scored great victories on the ground, at sea, and in the air. Amid the popular joy and in the effort to continue the great victories, our heroic Air Force stresses the pledge of allegiance to their great people and their great leader on these blessed days. They have shown this through a series of heroic deeds. The world admires their heroics, and the Arabs and Iraqis are proud of their deeds as well.

The heads of the Khomeyniites shall remain bent under painful Iraqi blows lest those rascals imagine that prolonging the war will help them to achieve gains at Iraq's expense. Those rogues must be shown irrefutable evidence that we grow stronger day by day while they are weakening in the face of our heroic steadfastness. They must be deprived of every resource that aids their war effort, sedition, and subversion. In order to accomplish all this, our heroic Air Force today carried out another daring mission. Our brave aircraft flew more than 600 km beyond our international borders, reaching the Rostam oil fields at 0930 [0530 GMT] this morning. After penetrating enemy defenses, our rapacious hawks — the grandsons of Sa'd, Al-Muthanna, and Al-Qa'Qa' — delivered destructive blows to the Rostam oil fields.

The hawks also carried out 55 combat missions against aggressor Khomeyniite battlefield units. After completing their duties, the hawks returned safely to base with their aircraft. With God's help, the hands of the Arab cavaliers tore Rostam [ancient Persian military commander] into pieces and all that is named after him. God bless your hands, O heroes of our Air Force. May God grant you success on the path to great victory.

2. The helicopter gunship knights carried out 22 combat missions, inflicting new losses on the mean aggressors. Our knights then returned safely to base along with their aircraft, praise be to God.

3. Our forward units in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris monitored two enemy formations escorted by five boats that attempted to approach our positions. Our brave men immediately confronted them with various types of weapons and wiped out the bulk of the enemy. Three boats were destroyed and sank with all hands; only those who fled escaped death.

Elsewhere in the same sector two guns and a tubular launcher were destroyed, three ammunition dumps were detonated, and five infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants killed or wounded.

4. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, five enemy personnel were killed, one machinegun and one vehicle were destroyed, two shovels [preceding word in English] were damaged, and two ammunition dumps were detonated.

5. One shovel and vehicle were destroyed, one ammunition dump was blown up, and three different rifles and one medium machinegun were captured in the I Army Corps northern sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 July 1987

Ramadan Receives Message From DRA Prime Minister

JN151616 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1500 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received a written message from DRA Prime Minister Soltan Ali Keshtmand. The message dealt with promoting cooperation between the two friendly countries. Dr (Sayyed Amir Dhara), the DRA Ambassador to Iraq, delivered the message when the first deputy prime minister received him this morning. During their meeting, the two officials reviewed bilateral relations. They also stressed both countries' joint desire to expand and promote these ties in various fields to benefit both peoples' interests.

DAVAR Views Effects of North's Testimony

TA151306 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Jul 87 p 7

[Editorial: "A Marine Singing His Own Praises"]

[Text] The sudden wave of public sympathy accorded U.S. Marine Colonel Oliver North is typical of U.S. society. As long as only interrogators, congressmen, and journalists probed the fine details of the sale of weapons to Iran and the diversion of profits to the "contras," the Americans remained rather indifferent to the ins-and-outs of the affair that has been evolving over the last 8 months. However, North's lengthy, dramatic appearances on television have become a regular household feature and have led to emotional reactions incompatible with that same public's rational verdict. The Americans embrace North but continue to believe that the policy he carried out was wrong and that President Reagan lied, pretending not to have known that his subordinates had circumvented the law.

North, who has been known for his verbal and written eloquence in various government agencies, has in the last week lived up to Marshall McLuhan's adage that "the medium is the message." His face, uniform, and words reflected values somewhat different from those reflected in his deeds: on the one hand, an innocent and pure American setting out to impose law and order in the world, while on the other hand, disregard for the law as a means to achieve the aforementioned purpose. Even if his testimony does not prevent him from going on trial — after all, special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh is less vulnerable than Congress to political and public opinion considerations — it is clear that North has managed to shake off two contradictory labels. He took enough action and initiative not to be considered someone who "plays it safe" and was strong enough not to continue in the role of scapegoat which he had assumed before he realized the direction in which the wheels of the trial were turning.

The Israeli angle does not feature prominently in the investigation into this affair. The $64,000 question is no longer in the field of action and initiative (to which Israeli mediators and officials made a vital contribution) but is now dealing with authority and responsibility. North and Reagan were kept apart by the national security adviser (McFarlane, but mainly Poindexter during the period when funds were diverted to the "contras"). North has already managed to pass the buck to Poindexter and then-CIA Director William Casey, who was not part of the direct chain of command but served as Reagan's main executor of secret operations. If Poindexter also passes the buck to Casey, it may very well turn out that with his death (2 months ago), Casey has given his friend Reagan another period of grace in the White House. The suspicions that Reagan knew but lied, or that he forgot because he was not in full control of his faculties (which is also an unfortunate trait in "the leader of the free world") will continue, but may not be corroborated with evidence.

The American public, which is being overwhelmed by North, Poindexter, and their colleagues, may acquit Israel for lack of evidence and for its marginal role, but there is no room for us to rejoice. Through its cooperation with the secret and unelected cabinet of the National Security Council and the CIA which arrogantly bypassed Congress, Israel unconsciously helped weaken the friendly administration of Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz, whose credibility has once again been trampled by North's testimony. Directly or indirectly, Israel's losses from its involvement in the Iran-contra affair outweigh its benefits.

'Hints' of 'More Senior' USSR Team in 'Few Months'

TA140731 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Jul 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by Benny Morris]

[Excerpts] Both the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office yesterday cautioned against exaggerating the significance of the Soviet consular delegation's visit to Israel, which began in secret on Sunday evening.

But senior sources last night noted that "there have been hints from the Soviets that they might replace the current delegation with a team of more senior officials in a few months' time." The sources implied that in such an event, the current visit could signal the beginning of a renewed, permanent Soviet diplomatic presence in Israel.

Foreign Minister Peres went out of his way to stress the low level of the Soviet visitors, while Foreign Ministry sources said that they did not regard the visit as "part of a (possible) thaw in relations between the two countries. One should not exaggerate their importance. They are a consular delegation."

Officials at the Prime Minister's Office also stressed the low level of the Soviet officials, but said: "Let's wait and see what they want and do here, and what their mandate is."

The eight-man delegation, headed by the deputy director of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's consular directorate, Yevgeniy Antipov, is scheduled to meet with medium- and low-level Foreign Ministry officials this morning. The Israelis hope "to hear what it is the Soviets have in mind," Foreign Ministry officials said. [passage omitted]

Among the Soviet officials are Gennadiy Plikhin, a consular directorate offical who was one of two Soviet officials at the meeting with Israeli officials last August in Helsinki, and Aleksey Chistyakov, of the Middle East Department. Israeli officials declined yesterday, in line with a Soviet request, to name the remaining Soviet visitors. [passage omitted]

Daily Assesses Delegation Visit

TA151357 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Jul 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The Soviets in Israel"]

[Text] The arrival of the Soviet consular delegation in Israel represents yet another step in the slow, albeit constant, change in the Soviet attitude toward Israel. On the face of it, there is no room for overdoing the importance of this delegation in view of its declarations that its visit would be limited to examining Soviet property in Israel (owned mainly by churches) and ensuring Moscow's continued ownership over it. However, during the

extended break in relations between the two countries, Moscow did not even make that move although it directly affected its own interests. Consequently, this move should be seen in context with other signals heralding the Soviet Union's willingness to arrive gradually at a resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel.

Undoubtedly, Gorbachev has come to the conclusion that the break with Israel was wrong and actually left the Soviet Union outside the Middle East's zone of influence. The Arab countries did not reward it by granting it a status that would be at least equal to that of the United States. In fact, except for Syria, Moscow really has no one to fall back on in our region. Moscow makes its return to Jerusalem conditional on the summoning of an international conference as a forum for a solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict. The Soviets have been very active on this issue amid efforts to arrive at a prior dialogue with the United States.

Yesterday it was learned that Moscow has raised the idea of a "preparatory conference" which would be attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council without the participation of the countries in the region involved in the conflict. The Soviet explanation would seem to be legitimate: According to the UN Charter, the five superpowers are responsible for maintaining peace in the world. However, through the years this motive has not withstood the test of reality. These superpowers did not hold a debate about Afghanistan, just as they have been doing nothing on the Iran-Iraq war, which has been going on for years. Moreover, such a "preparatory conference" would by definition be construed as an attempt by the superpowers to impose a solution, one which would not only be rejected by Israel but by the Arabs as well. Upon raising this proposal Moscow reiterated that it was not intended to impose a solution that would be attained through direct negotiations between the countries of the region. However, those who really want to promote the political process must accept the formula that has been agreed by Israel, Jordan, and Egypt and that is also being favored by the United States. In other words, an international conference as an opening framework to be followed by direct talks between Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians, as well as talks between Israel and Syria.

In the next few days the consular delegation will deal with prosaic issues affecting Soviet interests in Israel. However, the possibility should not be ruled out that Moscow may in due time grant wider powers to this delegation to hold political contacts. Therefore, although the importance of this delegation should not be exaggerated, one must also take notice of the change inherent in the very creation of the possibility to hold direct contacts with official Soviet representatives here, in Israel.

Security Evicts Demonstrators

TA160844 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] The Soviet consular delegation is continuing to stimulate interest. Yesterday the security guards at the Hilton Hotel forcefully evicted several demonstrators protesting against the consular delegation. The father of prisoner of Zion (Aleksey Megarek) bound himself with chains to a banister in the hotel lobby. Our police affairs correspondent Dov Gilhar reports that an AP photographer, who took pictures of the violent incident, was herself attacked by the security guards who also exposed her film.

Wilner Cites Hu Qili on PRC Mideast Stance

TA151822 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] China does not plan to establish diplomatic relations with Israel until the government changes its policy. That is the assessment of Israeli Communist Party Secretary Me'ir Wilner, who returned today from a visit to China. More from our reporter in Tel Aviv, Sabra Chartrand:

Chinese officials made clear to Knesset Member Me'ir Wilner their belief that there is a distinction between the Jewish people and the Government of Israel, and he says they are eager to continue contacts with Israelis and Jews without considering formal diplomatic relations between the two nations. Wilner says Chinese officials told him they will not entertain the idea of formal ties until Israel abandons what he called aggression and territorial expansionism.

At the same time, however, Chinese officials including the secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee, Hu Qili, told him they did not deny Israel's right to exist.

[Begin Wilner recording] They recognize the right of Israel to exist as a sovereign independent state, to development, and to security. But the same rights have the Arab states and the Palestinian people for self-determination and statehood. [end recording]

Wilner said he thought the main purpose of his delegation's visit to Beijing was to satisfy Chinese eagerness to discuss the geopolitical map of the Middle East and possibilities for the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. But he stressed the Chinese officials he talked with expressed displeasure with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' concept of an international conference as an opening to direct negotiations. This, Wilner said, would be nothing more than a cocktail party and the Chinese are interested in a more substantial role.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 15 July 1987 in a shorter report on Wilner's comments noted that "Wilner said a CPC delegation may come to Israel next year." The radio added no further details.]

PRC Researcher To Study Peace Process, Trade

TA151546 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] A PRC scientist arrived in Israel a few days ago as the guest of Hebrew University's Truman Institute. He will carry out research on Israel's policy toward the Middle East peace process and the chances of establishing commercial and political relations between the PRC and Israel. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the researcher is Dr (Guang Chiang Huan), aged 37,

and that he arrived in Israel on his Chinese passport having earlier obtained a visa from the Israeli Embassy in the United States. His studies are standard reading material among administration circles in the PRC and he expects that the research he will be conducting in Israel will arouse interest in his country. He pointed out that so far most of the information about Israel in the PRC comes from Arab embassies.

Tehiya To Urge Legislation to Dissolve Knesset

TA151818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] A large majority of the Tehiya Movement's Secretariat this evening decided to recommend that the movement's Central Committee immediately submit a bill on the dissolution of the Knesset and for early elections. This follows a report by Movement Chairman Prof Yuval Ne'eman on contacts he held with the prime minister and with the Likud on Tehiya's demands for settlement and on the international conference, which Ne'eman noted were largely denied. The Tehiya Central Committee will discuss the recommendation early next week.

Early Elections 'Likely'

TA160541 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] The right-wing opposition Tehiya Party came out last night in favor of early elections and will almost certainly submit a bill on Wednesday to dissolve the Knesset. The Labor Alignment has been trying for months to bring about early elections, so far without success. But Tehiya's decision will give Shim'on Peres the majority he has been seeking. Jack Katzenell reports:

Last night's decision was taken by the Tehiya Secretariat and has to be confirmed on Sunday by the party's Central Committee, but this is regarded as a foregone conclusion. Tehiya threatened a month ago to bring down the national unity government unless the Likud agreed to a stepped-up Jewish settlement drive in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with $100 million budgeted for new settlements. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has been unable to deliver such a sum due to opposition from the Labor Alignment and from the finance minister, the Likud's Moshe Nisim. Shamir is expected to make a last minute appeal to the Tehiya to change its mind on the grounds that by supporting early elections they will be aiding and abetting Shim'on Peres in his efforts to promote an international conference, which Tehiya opposes no less than the Likud. But this argument has had no effect on Tehiya over the past month, perhaps because Tehiya's own election prospects are good, according to the opinion polls.

There is one way Prime Minister Shamir could stop Tehiya's move: He could sack the Labor Cabinet ministers and form a narrow-based government with Tehiya and the religious parties. But Transportation Minister Hayim Corfu, the Likud's coalition troubleshooter, told me last night that this is not on the cards, as it is almost impossible to govern with a majority of only one Knesset member. Big concessions always have to be made to the small parties, Corfu said, and this is bad for the economy.

It is therefore more likely that the Likud will try to reach an agreement with Labor over the date of the election. Likud Cabinet Minister Moshe Qatzav last night suggested next April, but Labor is thinking in terms of a few weeks from now.

Shamir Comments on Decision

TA160534 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Excerpts] The prime minister says that the Tehiya's initiative to advance elections is a historical mistake. At the same time, our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that Likud personages believe that ultimately the Tehiya will not lend a hand to toppling the Shamir government. [passage omitted]

If the Tehiya indeed persists in its drive for early elections, the Alignment will have at its disposal a majority of 63 Knesset members who support the dissolution of the Knesset and early elections.

CRM May Move for Elections

TA161016 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1000 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] In view of the Tehiya faction's decision to move for early elections, the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] announced today that it will submit a similar bill to the Knesset next week. Our correspondent Uri Ginosar reports that the CRM will submit its proposal only after establishing that the move enjoys the support of a Knesset majority.

There is tension in the Likud following the Tehiya faction's decision last night to propose that the Knesset move for early elections. Likud faction Chairman Hayim Kaufman has called on the Tehiya not only to renege on its decision, but even to join the Cabinet immediately and strengthen its hawkish camp.

Inner Cabinet Split on Proposed RSA Sanctions

TA151724 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] The Inner Cabinet today began discussing the committee recommendations on limiting ties between Israel and South Africa. Due to pressure by Ministers Rabin, Sharon, and Weizman the decision-making phase was deferred indefinitely. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

The coalition of Inner Cabinet members who believe Israel should not spearhead the international fight against South Africa cuts across the parties. This forum includes the former and present defense ministers: Yitzhaq Rabin, 'Ezer Weizman, Ari'el Sharon, and Moshe Arens. Approximately 4 months ago, following pressure by the U.S. Congress, the Inner Cabinet decided not to renew military contracts with South Africa and to minimize the civilian aspect of intergovernmental cooperation.

An interministerial team led by Foreign Ministry Political Director General Yosi Beilin worked the second part of the recommendation into a document with recommendations for ways to limit the scope of trade relations, economic ties, delegation exchanges, and cultural cooperation — all outlined in 13 clauses. These are not sanctions but rather modest measures, some merely declaratory in nature. Nevertheless, some Inner Cabinet members maintain that the document should not be adopted at once.

The ministers asked the Foreign Ministry political director general to gather information on parallel moves taken by European countries and the United States. Ministers Rabin and Sharon mentioned the hypocritical attitude of the Western world, which, while declaring sanctions against South Africa, in fact continues to conduct business with that country as usual. Minister 'Ezer Weizman asked why decisions should be made now, when Israel is under no pressure on the matter.

Thus, the next stage of the debate has been postponed by at least a few weeks. No date has as yet been set for another meeting.

Northern Commander Interviewed on Syrian 'Threat'
TA151527 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1505 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Studio interview with Commander of the Northern Command Major General Yosi Peled by Nahman Shay — live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Shay] Major General Peled, earlier in this conversation you said that the Northern Command has two goals. One of them is to be ready for war and to deploy for war. In the final analysis, doesn't the daily preoccupation with the problems of terrorism detract from your ability to engage in the Command's supreme goal, the preparations for war?

[Peled] Well, to be frank, Lebanon does of course take up a great deal of my time, but I am happy to say that we are finding a way to create a balance between the two.

[Shay] How do you create such a balance? In weapons, in timetables...

[Peled, interrupting] No, no. Both in time and in measure, especially in the clear knowledge that what is urgent must not cause what is important to be neglected, and what is urgent is to cope with terrorism daily. In my view, over the last 18 months we have also taken several steps forward with regard to the Syrian front. We are very busy indeed with this. And, as you can see, it is a clear decision; we have to deal with both, because it is very easy to be swept up into Lebanon and be entirely absorbed in it for 24 hours.

[Shay] And this is nothing new.

[Peled] Yes. Listen, with regard to this too, there are indications from commanders — I speak with the commanders, they feel that we, that the commanders, for instance, who are on the Golan Heights front — the feedback [last word in English] from them is that there is a feeling that they are dealing with it much more than they are accustomed to.

[Shay] Maj Gen Peled, there have been reports that Syria may have moderated its belligerent preparations, that it may have given up some of its strategic aspirations. Do you also share the view that, to some degree or another, the strength of the Syrian threat to us has actually become weaker?

[Peled] No. I do not think the Syrian threat has become weaker. The Syrian Army is a large one.

[Shay] As it is?

[Peled] As it is, despite the changes. The Syrian Army has been equipped and is acquiring very, very advanced weapons. If we are talking about ground forces, this means advanced tanks; and if we are talking about the air, in my view it is only a matter of time before we see Mig-29's flying in Syrian airspace. The Syrian Army is training and, in my view, they are not maintaining this large army to hold marches in Damascus. I permit myself to assume that there are other reasons for a country like Syria, with its economic situation, to maintain such an army.

[Shay] In your view, they have not given up their main ambition, which is to get back the Golan Heights?

[Peled] I think it would be naive to think that the Syrians, because of the passing of 20 years, have become accustomed to the fact that we are settled on the Golan Heights. If I may describe it graphically, I think that the Syrians wake up in the morning, look westward, and see the red roofs of the settlements on the Golan Heights, the farmers in the fields, the children going to school, and this is not something they can live with. We must know how to study the Syrians. The Syrians are constantly teaching children in schools that, as they see it, the Golan Heights is a stretch of land that has been taken from them and must be returned. That is, this motivation exists.

[Shay] And they will try to take it back if they estimate they are capable of doing so?

[Peled] If they estimate they are capable of doing so. But here I would like to tell you that this depends on us to a great extent, and I am now speaking of the Northern Command. As I see it, the Northern Command's supreme mission, the Northern Command's primary mission, is to maintain our deterrent capability. That is, to prevent a war, because, in my view, we have no successful wars. Israel has no successful wars because, if we assume that, heaven forbid, we do have a war, we will break the Syrian Army into pieces but we will leave behind us 2,000 dead young men. Is that a successful war? So our supreme mission is to maintain the deterrent capability.

Now, for this not to be left on the level of slogans, what actually is a deterrent capability? After all, we use the term, what is it, a deterrent capability? A deterrent capability is what we project of ourselves to the outside. How we are seen by Syrian eyes. And this, incidentally, is also tied up with our level of discipline. If we radiate confidence to the outside, if we radiate ability, if we radiate standards, and it is no secret that some of the things... [changes thought] The Syrians just sit there and watch our training. There is nothing to speak of in the way of range between us. And if we demand of ourselves hard training, they see this,

hear it, and know it. If we do not compromise our standards, we will be depicted as a qualitative Army and then there is a chance for us to maintain our deterrent capability. And if we maintain the deterrent capability, there is a chance that the other side, despite its inability to come to terms with the fact that we are settled on the Golan Heights, may think four times about whether it is worth clashing with us in a war. Now, if we are not like that, if we are sad sacks, poor things, what we will radiate to the outside is that we are miserable, there is inability, and so on and so on. As I see it, we would bring war closer. So we must demand a great deal of ourselves. It is only through uncompromising demands of ourselves that we will maintain our deterrent capability.

[Shay] Deterrent capability, then, is the key term?

[Peled] Yes. War is not inevitable. It can be prevented if we maintain our ability. Do you remember I was once accused of having said something was inevitable?

[Shay] I remember.

[Peled] Only a fool and an idiot says something like that and I think...

[Shay, interrupting] I think you said war with Syria was inevitable. You are quoting what was not attributed to you.

[Peled] So I think only a fool and an idiot says that and I do not think I am either one or the other. But if we act like miserable people, we will bring war closer. [passage omitted]

Air Force Commander Comments on Lavi, Planning

TA151626 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 15 Jul 87 p 1

[Text] "Syria may receive Mig-29's already in the next few months," Air Force Commander Major General 'Amos Lapidot said in a special interview with the Air Force magazine for its Air Force Day issue.

The Air Force is already geared up for the future battlefield of the 21st century, when advanced aircraft such as the Mig-29 and the Lavi will be flying, the Air Force commander asserted.

"As far as I can judge, the Lavi corresponds to the Air Force's concept of the future battlefield. The aircraft is being developed according to our demands and the specifications we desire. From this point of view, it must be perfectly incorporated into Air Force missions and into the Air Force's order of battle," Gen Lapidot said.

"We are not talking about an Air Force that will be based solely on Lavi aircraft. This Air Force will also be equipped with F-16's and F-15's, as well as other sophisticated aircraft," the Air Force commander added.

Gen Lapidot stressed Israel's need to maintain aerial superiority, saying: "Israel's number one deterrent factor has always been and remains the Air Force and its air-to- air capability."

IAI Executives Hope New Data Will Save Lavi

TA161111 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] executives are convinced that the new data they presented to the prime minister this morning proves they can cut the Lavi costs, thereby allowing the project to continue. IAI Director General Moshe Qeret and his assistant, Nehemya Hasid, submitted to Mr Shamir a plan for reorganizing the IAI. They believe the dismissals and operational cost cuts mark progress toward meeting the Treasury's demands.

Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that the prime minister continues to support the Lavi project.

Air Force Unveils New Antiaircraft Systems

TA151536 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 15 Jul 87 p 1

[Text] The Air Force has unveiled two new antiaircraft systems. This has been disclosed in the latest Air Force magazine issue which appears on the eve of Air Force Day.

The first system is a high-powered, quality illuminating radar mounted on improved Hawk missiles which has enhanced the use, effectiveness, and credibility of the Hawk missile batteries' homing and surveillance capabilities by hundreds of percent!

The system includes an internal "diagnosing" unit that locates every malfunction, isolates it, and enables the repair time to be substantially reduced.

The radar system has also been improved thanks to an optical system that permits optical homing on targets independent of the homing on reflecting electromagnetic signals. This system is manufactured by the Israeli Aran electronics firm.

The second system is intended for the Chaparral missiles and allows for the exploitation of these missiles' full range.

So far, the missiles' range has been limited due to the shortage of means to identify targets from a distance.

The new system makes it possible to identify aircraft from a range of up to 10 km and to launch the first missile from a range of 6 km.

Israel will be the first country to possess such a system, which is coproduced by the Mabat and Tadiran companies. It is expected to have a great future.

Interior Ministry Bans Exit of AL-QUDS Editor

TA151407 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] The Interior Ministry has issued an injunction banning the departure from Israel of *Al-Quds* editor Mahmud Abu Zalaf. The Interior Ministry spokesman announced that the man has long been maintaining ties with the PLO leadership, ties that have recently tightened. He took advantage of his trips abroad

to hold contacts with various organization activists for the purpose of position coordination and receipt of large sums of money intended for the advancement of the organization's goals.

The interior minister decided to forbid him to leave the country because he believes state security might otherwise be jeopardized.

Likud MK's Meet With West Bank Arab Leaders

TA160510 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] Likud Knesset Members [MK's] plan on holding a series of meetings with local Arab leaders in Judaea and Samaria who have ties with King Husayn of Jordan. The first meeting was held yesterday in the village of Al-Zahiriyah in the Mount Hebron area. At that meeting the Likud members spoke about international politics and the Arabs spoke about municipal problems. Tzvi Rodan was there.

[Bebin recording] [Rodan] It sounded like an election campaign stop: Four MK's from the Likud touting party positions on peace, relations with Arabs, and even the international peace conference — all this to Jordanian citizens who can't even vote in Israeli elections. But that didn't stop Likud Knesset whip Hayim Kaufman.

[Kaufman] The first thing we would like: To speak with them and to hear them and their problems and to negotiate. And, after that, we shall be prepared to give them answers, if any, in the short time that we could now discuss with them and hear their problems, and not only problems, maybe ideas.

[Rodan] What do you mean, negotiate? I don't understand. What are you negotiating? Who are you negotiating with?

[Kaufman] We would like to settle the problems and to reach an understanding between Jews and Arabs in the area. So, there is a lot of negotiation. Some people are doing the negotiation abroad, in Geneva, England, France, and other places. We are doing it here, in Israel, in our land.

[Rodan] For their part, the Arab municipal leaders from the Mount Hebron area wanted to talk about their problems: water, electricity, and classroom shortages. In the end, the Likud members promised to respond to the requests of their hosts. The villagers said they would not mind setting up a similar meeting with the Labor Party, just in case the Likud does not get back to them. [end recording]

Citizens Polled on Future of Judaea, Samaria

TA151307 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Jul 87 p A2

[Text] Only 31.1 percent of Israelis are currently prepared to return part or even all of Judaea and Samaria in exchange for peace. In contrast, 66.8 percent want a solution that would leave Judaea and Samaria in Israel's hands in any solution to the problem of the Arab population. Some 20.4 percent believe Israel must pull out the Arab population in Judaea and Samaria and transfer it outside the region.

These are the findings of a recent poll of public opinion conducted for *Ma'ariv* by Modi'in Ezrahi under the direction of Dr Mikha Hop in the wake of recent statements made by various public figures on pulling the Arabs out of Judaea and Samaria.

Mod'in Ezrahi's polls are conducted on a national sample of urban and rural locations, excluding Arab villages, kibbutzim, and settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Golan Heights.

The question polled was: Which of the following proposals on the future of Judaea and Samaria is closer to your own position?

The answers are as follows:

Some 20.4 percent believe Judaea and Samaria must be annexed to Israel and the Arabs must be transferred from there.

Some 19.2 percent believe Judaea and Samaria must be annexed to Israel without removing the Arabs but without granting them Israeli citizenship.

Some 8.9 percent believe Judaea and Samaria must be annexed to Israel and the Arabs must be granted full rights of citizens, including the right to vote.

Some 10.7 percent believe the present situation should continue.

Some 7.6 percent believe the present situation should continue along with granting autonomy to the Arabs.

Some 23.6 percent want a territorial compromise along with the return of territories in exchange for a peace agreement.

Some 4.5 percent favor a Jordanian-Palestinian federation in the territories in exchange for a peace agreement.

Some 3 percent prefer an independent Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel.

Some 2.1 percent did not reply.

Pro-Jordanian West Bank Party To Go Public

TA151424 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Jul 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Next week, prominent pro-Jordanian inhabitants of the West Bank intend to declare openly the establishment of a party in the territories. This correspondent has learned that Jordanian personalities associated with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i recently visited the West Bank and were let in on the preparations for the establishment of the new party. Late last week, the leaders of the future party met in the village of Al-Ram [location as published] north of Jerusalem, where they passed a resolution that they would appear in public. They are now preparing a news conference to detail their platform and political line.

Our correspondent points out that Jordan's sympathizers are already publishing a newspaper in East Jerusalem, *Al-Nahar*, and that they are planning to set up public institutions in the West Bank to compete with the PLO for public support. They have consequently already established in Al-Ram a research center to rival the PLO-supporting institution of Faysal al-Husayni. Personalities who had previously been associated with the Area Village Leagues have recently joined these Jordan sympathizers, and they too are taking part in the preparations for the announcement of the establishment of the new party.

On another matter, our correspondent has learned that Jordan has made it clear to the PLO that it will not hold a meeting of the Palestinians' "popular assembly" next month, in which Jordan was to be authorized to participate in the international conference. Jordan's Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah was the first to inform Palestinian personalities from all over the world about the impending session, when they met recently in Amman. The PLO was worried because this "popular assembly" was supposed to constitute a rival institution to the PNC, through which Jordan could bypass the PLO insofar as Palestinian representation is concerned. It seems that Jordan has no desire to go too far in its conflict with the PLO.

Fatah Reportedly Increasing Activities in Cyprus

TA151257 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Jul 87 p 3

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] 'Arafat's Fatah has recently increased its activities in Cyprus. Fatah has been establishing an organizational infrastructure on the island that is designed to serve as an operational and logistics base in view of Cyprus' proximity to Lebanon's shores.

Among other things, Fatah has established administrative and financial units and has opened offices of "Force 17." Many Palestinian activists from around the world have recently been arriving in Cyprus and joining activities there.

At the same time, the transfer of terrorists from Cyprus to the port of Juniyah in Lebanon continues.

Iranian Defector Sentenced for Infiltration

TA161024 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jul 87 p 2

[ITIM report]

[Text] An Iranian soldier who defected to Iraq, later crossed into Jordan, infiltrated into Israel after swimming from Al-'Aqabah on 4 April this year, and who intended to get from here to the United States, has been sentenced to 9 months in prison by the Beersheva District Court. The Iranian youth was convicted of infiltrating into Israel.

Ramadan ibn 'Ali Goda Qardal, 21, from the town of Mehmol [placename as published] was a soldier in the Iranian Army. According to his court testimony, he sought to flee Khomeyni's regime. Justice Yosef Levin convicted him on the basis of his own confession.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Praises USSR Aid to Third World

JN151232 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jul 87 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Soviet Step Toward Third World Economies"]

[Text] The Soviet stand that appeared yesterday through UNCTAD reflects a new Soviet policy toward the Third World with regard toeconomic development. It is a serious attempt to contribute toward alleviating poverty and moving Third World economies from a state of deterioration and stagnation to one of reconstruction and development.

Soviet aid to developing states reached $24 billion last year. The USSR also increased its contribution to the UN fund for trade and development by 6.2 percent.

This aid will contribute toward reorganizing international economic relations and enhancing trade and economic cooperation between the Third World and a major portion of the northern hemisphere; namely, the socialist bloc countries.

Many developing countries, led by Jordan, have criticized the narrow-minded, greedy policies of the North-North axis. They have warned of the problems resulting from these policies, especially with regard to the attempts to initiate South-South dialogue and to widen North-South dialogue on the basis of mutual interest and respect to promote production and economic development policies.

The new Soviet stand, manifested by a new agreement to establish ajoint fund stabilizing the prices of basic products, has attracted the attention of the Western world, led by the United States, which has faced wider criticism due to its poor economic conduct toward the Third World. Therefore, several Third World countries have criticized the United States for refusing to sign this agreement.

Moscow's new policy was perhaps formulated after the USSR decided that Third World states need economic development aid, as well as expanded trade and production of raw materials, more than they need weapons, polarization, alignment, and the adoption of different political or dogmatic stands. This is particularly true since issues of famine, unemployment, economic recession, weak productive potentials, lack of technology, and international rivalry are the basic primary phenomena suffered by Third World countries.

In light of this Soviet step, will the United States and its Western allies reconsider their policies and economic programs vis-a-vis the Third World?

Moreover, will they perceive in the new Soviet stand a challenge that seeks to pull the rug from under their feet after many fields and methods of work have changed?

This new step is perhaps the beginning of a new phase in North-South dialogue and confirms the Soviet desire to introduce some free market regulations into its own economy.

Perhaps this new policy does not please the United States and the EC. However, it is a legitimate and justifiable step in view of the fact that the Southern states urgently require it.

Former PNC Speaker in Amman on 'Private Visit'

JN160958 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Jul 87 p 1

[Text] Al-Ramtha — PETRA — Former PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum arrived in Amman last night via the Al-Ramtha border post [from Syria] for a private visit to Jordan.

He was received by Isma'il Hijazi, deputy speaker of the House of Representatives; Irbid Governor Akram al-Nasir; the head of the Irbid Governorate Police Department; the administrative officer of Al-Ramtha District; and the director of Al-Ramtha border post.

Al-Fahum stated that he was on a private visit to Jordan to allow his daughter to undergo surgery following His Majesty King Husayn's order that she be treated at the King Husayn Medical Center.

Hijazi, a member of the House of Representatives, stated: I welcomed Mr al-Fahum and conveyed greetings from His Majesty King Husayn and the speaker and members of the House of Representatives.

Palestinian Official Says Buckley 'Moved' to Iran

NC161157 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1133 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] A senior unnamed Palestinian official has stated in Tunisia that the U.S. and French hostages being held in Lebanon have not been transferred to Tehran. The official disclosed that they are being detained in both the southern suburb of Beirut and the south.

He added that 16 U.S. and French hostages are still in Lebanon and that only U.S. hostage William Buckley, whose execution was announced by his kidnappers on 4 October 1985, has been moved to Iran. Press items have recently reported the transfer of Terry Waite to Iran.

Al-Jumayyil, Iranian Envoy Hold 'Secret Meetings'

JN151654 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
15 Jul 87 pp 1, 19

[Text] Beirut — A high-ranking political source in East Beirut has disclosed to *Al-Qabas* that secret meetings were held recently between Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil and Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Ahmad Dastmalchiyan. The Iranian ambassador is known to be close to the centers of power in Tehran, particularly those which in one way or another supervised the seizure of foreign hostages in Lebanon.

The source added that a Lebanese deputy, recently known for arms dealing in coordination with international networks, played the role of mediator. The source said that the meetings were shrouded in extreme secrecy and took place as a direct result of the tension which began to prevail in relations between Damascus and Tehran after the *Al-Qabas* story about a summit meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn was confirmed. The story was confirmed by Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i on 6 July when he told French journalists who accompanied French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond during his recent visit to Amman that a Syrian-Iraqi summit was held on 27 April at King Husayn's invitation.

It is quite clear that this tension is getting close to diplomatic estrangement, particularly after Syrian officials told some Hizballah leaders who visited Damascus at the end of June that they would never allow two authorities, one Syrian and the other Iranian, in areas where Syrian forces are stationed. These areas are in the Al-Biqa', where the Syrians began a step by step campaign to impose a siege on the activities of Hizballah and the Iranian Revolution Guard. It has become certain that the Syrians have arrested many elements affiliated with Hizballah in the last few weeks, particularly after the kidnapping of U.S. journalist Charles Glass on the Beirut-Sidon road in the Al-Awza'i area on Wednesday, 17 June. This was considered a blatant challenge to the Syrian security plan implemented on 22 February in West Beirut and in some areas of the southern suburb.

The same source said that the meetings between Al-Jumayyil and Dastmalchiyan dealt with the development of relations between B'abda and Tehran provided that the Lebanese president plays a specific role in the efforts being made to define the fate of the foreign hostages held by pro-Iranian groups, who are believed to be kept in the southern suburb.

The source expressed his conviction that Iranian elements who oppose the trend represented by Ambassador Dastmalchiyan leaked the information about the B'abda meetings as was the case with the U.S. arms deal with Iran. The source explained that he had received the information from a party who had played a role in the mediation efforts to release Iranian diplomats seized by the Lebanese Forces 4 years ago while en route to the Lebanese Foreign Ministry in East Beirut.

In a previous issue, *Al-Qabas* had noted that contacts were held between parties connected with the kidnappers of the foreign hostages and the Lebanese Forces to conclude a deal to smuggle those hostages through the port of Juniyah in exchange for $1 million for each hostage. Those parties' condition was that they seize leaders of the Lebanese Forces until the operation was carried out. When the Lebanese Forces rejected the proposal, these parties proposed to hold 50 elements from the Lebanese Forces. This condition was also rejected. Informed sources said that the Lebanese Forces themselves had proposed this in agreement with the Central Intelligence Agency. This took place when the Hizballah leaders received information that more than one party in West Beirut had concluded an agreement with Washington to free the hostages if the kidnappers thought of smuggling them via the port of Sidon, for example.

The Lebanese Forces' proposal calls for smuggling the hostages to East Beirut via the contact line in the Al-Mu'alim area near the Madi District in the southern suburb where the hostages are believed to be held.

The source said Ambassador Dastmalachiyan informed President al-Jumayyil that if an agreement on certain points is reached, Hizballah will instruct its fighters not to participate in any military operation to oust the Lebanese president, as well as to directly confront such an operation. The Iranian ambassador also affirmed that Syria is now strongly leaning toward the military option to deal with the current political impasse, in coordination with the United States, which seems to have frozen a large part of the political proposals on handling the situation in Lebanon.

Investigator Detains Army Sergeant in Karami Case

NC161128 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] Judicial investigator Judge Walid Ghamrah detained Army Sergeant First Class Ibrahim Daghir of Adma Air Base today. This is the first announced detention since the commencement of the judicial investigation into the crime of the assassination of late Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

It has been learned that Sergeant Daghir has been charged with facilitating the assassination of Prime Minister Karami and with breaching state security. A warrant for his arrest was issued on the basis of Article 549 of the Penal Code which provides for the death sentence.

Sergeant First Class Daghir works as a mechanic at the air base.

Judge Ghamrah began his approximately 4-hour interrogation of Sergeant Daghir at 0800 today.

'Rebellion' Reported in Army's 5th Brigade

NC161206 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] Parliamentary Defense Committee sources have stated that there has been a rebellion in the Army's 5th Brigade. The sources said that Army Commander General 'Awn issued an order to Lieutenant Colonel Paul Faris yesterday to hand over his position as commander of the brigade to Lieutenant Colonel Kamal Karam. Lt Col Faris refused to implement the order and sought the support of the Lebanese Forces in an attempt to strengthen his position and to prevent the implementation of the order by force.

Gunmen Kidnap 2 MEA Employees in Southern Suburb

NC160737 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Gunmen kidnapped two Middle East Airlines [MEA] employees in the Al-Murayjah area [of Beirut's southern suburb] this morning. The employees, Wadi' Al-Haj and Elie Mikhaybir, were riding in a company bus.

Eyewitnesses have told us that the bus, which had been boarding 12 employees on their way to work at Beirut airport, was intercepted by gunmen waring camouflage military uniforms and accompanied by a jeep at 0715 today. The gunmen attempted to kidnap more employees, but failed to do so because of a traffic jam. [passage omitted] Intensive contacts are underway to release Al-Haj and Mukhaybir.

Car Bomb Kills 4, Injures 70 in Tripoli

NC152032 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Four persons were killed and 70 were injured, many of them seriously, when a booby-trapped car exploded today. The car was parked near a Syrian checkpoint on 'Azmi Street in Tripoli's Al-Balhah Quarter.

Turkish Prime Minister, Delegation Begin Visit

JN151144 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal arrived in Damascus at 1200 today on a 3-day visit to Syria. He was received on his arrival at Damascus International Airport by Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm. He was also met on the runway by 'Isam al-Na'b, minister of state for foreign affairs; the Syrian ambassador to Ankara; and the Turkish ambassador to Damascus. Al-Kasm and Ozal embraced at the aircraft ramp. Two girls presented bouquets of flowers to Ozal and Al-Kasm. The Turkish and Syrian national anthems were played, and Ozal and Al-Kasm then inspected an honor guard.

The Turkish prime minister shook hands with the deputy prime minister for economic affairs, the deputy prime minister for services affairs, ministers, the governor of Damascus, the chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, and the staff of the Turkish Embassy in Damascus. Al-Kasm and Ozal then proceeded to Al-Rawdah Palace, where Ozal is staying.

Ozal is accompanied by a delegation that includes Minister of Foreign Affairs Vahit Halefoglu, Minister of Interior Yildrim Akbulut, and senior Turkish officials.

Ozal Arrival Statement

JN151703 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Damascus — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal arrived in Damascus at 1200 today to begin a 3-day visit to Syria. Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm led the reception party in greeting him at Damascus International Airport.

In a news statement to a SANA correspondent at the airport, Ozal declared he was pleased to visit Syria and to have the opportunity to observe its accomplishments under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. He also stated: Turkey and Syria share a 900-km border, the longest border Turkey shares with a neighboring state.Syrian-Turkish relations are historic. The Turkish prime minister added: Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm's visit to Turkey and my current visit to Syria are extremely important for reviewing positive developments between Syria and Turkey. This is particularly true since Dr al-Kasm's visit inaugurated a new stage in our bilateral relations. We seek to consolidate this promise and initiative. He continued: If we think positively, we must realize that our countries can settle their small differences, for these are not complex problems. Our talks in Syria will take place within the framework of goodwill and will yield positive results.

In concluding his statement, Ozal declared: On this occasion, I would like to express my gratitude at being given the opportunity to meet with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. He stated: I would like to convey the Turkish people's greetings to the Syrian Arab people.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Vahit Halefoglu, Minister of Interior Yildirim Akbulut, and a number of senior Turkish officials comprise Ozal's accompanying delegation.

Ozal, Al-Kasm Dinner Speeches

JN151711 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Damascus, 15 Jul (SANA) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal affirmed that the Palestinian problem constitutes the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict and that a just peace can be achieved only by Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territories taken in 1967, including Jerusalem, as well as by recognizing the Palestinian people's rights. In a speech delivered at a dinner banquet hosted in his honor by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm this evening, Ozal declared his country strongly opposes Israel's policy of settlements and the imposition of current conditions inside the occupied Arab territory. He stated that Turkey, which champions its Arab brothers' legitimate rights, honestly supports all efforts aimed at achieving regional peace and stability.

Ozal expressed hope that Lebanon would find a way to achieve its independence, sovereignty, and unity in an atmosphere of national reconciliation. He affirmed that resolving the Lebanese crisis would contribute greatly to achieving regional peace and stability.

He noted that the 7-year-old Iraq-Iran war has caused serious damage to Iran and Iraq. He added that this war not only constitutesa threat to regional security, but also to world peace and security. He expressed hope that war between the two countries would end since there is no benefit to its continuation.

Ozal expressed the desire that his current visit to Syria would result in developing friendly and good-neighborly relations, which were described as being very positive in the past year. He also expressed his hope that the visit constitutes the beginning of a new stage of true cooperation, one that would consider Turkey's and Syria's common interests.

He noted that Syria and Turkey are linked by more than 400-year-old histories and common cultural values, and that these basic elements constitute both countries' bases of cooperation. The Turkish prime minister declared that his nation is fully prepared to deepen cooperation with Syria in historical harmony and common cultural values. He stated: This visit confirmed my conviction that the same will exists on the Syrian side.

Ozal added: The fruitful cooperation between Turkey and Syria will not only benefit both countries but its results will reflect positively on regional peace and stability.

In his reply speech, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm affirmed that Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's visit to Syria constitutes an important step in the level of contacts and consultations between the two friendly governments and peoples.

Dr al-Kasm said this visit will lay the groundwork for better relations in all areas and described the visit as a vital move dictated by joint interests and short- and long-term benefits. He

also stated that every meeting will increase cooperation between the two countries and will enable them to be more specific in the two friendly peoples' objectives. The two peoples have historical ties and joint ideals and values and effectively participate in establishing a great cultural heritage, which can enrich all joint apsirations to a better life.

Dr al-Kasm said what was achieved through implementing agreements reflects a true and honest desire to promote bilateral relations in all areas and that the spirit of understanding and cordiality which prevailed in the talks, as well as the agreement of viewpoints also express the degree of progress achieved through cooperation.

Regarding the situation in the Middle East, Dr al-Kasm affirmed that the crisis in this region will continue to be a threat to security and peace and will continue to exacerbate and threaten the worst consequences if Israel and the Western countries supporting it continue their hegemonistic and hostile trends. He also stressed Syria will never allow Israel and its allies to impose any plan under any slogan to revive the goals and means of Camp David and to use the language of threats, pressure, and blackmail to force the Arabs to surrender.

Dr al-Kasm also asserted that the best way to deal with regional problems is to implement UN resolutions and recommendations, to restore the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, and to have Israel fully withdraw from all occupied Arab territories.

As for the situation in Lebanon, Dr al-Kasm reiterated Syria's position aimed at achieving national agreement, preserving Lebanon's unity and territorial integrity, and supporting the Lebanese people's desire for a free, unified, and secure Arab Lebanon.

Ozal, Al-Kasm Official Talks

TA160528 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2000 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Border security issues were discussed at the officialTurkish-Syrian talks held in Damascus today. According to a statement issued by the prime minister's office, Prime Minister Ozal stated during the talks that the leader of those carrying out activities against Turkey is in Syria, and that the perpetrators hold their congresses in Syria. Ozal explained that the separatist forces in northern Iraq benefit from the vacuum created by the [Iran-Iraq] war and are harassing Turkey. He then stated that during the shah's reign, these forces were used in the struggle between Iran and Iraq and that the same holds true today. Ozal declared that Turkey is not afraid of these incidents, but stated problems could arise if this disturbing situation continues. He added: These incidents concern the four countries in the region: Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey. The exploitation of these incidents by outside forces harms these four countries and serves the interests of others.

In the official talks, Syrian Prime Minister al-Kasm stressed that Syria does not permit any anti-Turkish activities on its territory. He pointed out that the length of the common border might make certain uncontrollable and isolated incidents unavoidable.

It has been decided to continue the official Turkish-Syrian talks in five committees that will discuss natural resources, commerce, security, property, and regional problems.

Further on 15 Jul Talks

JN160832 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal at 1800 today and they held a closed meeting.

At 1900 this evening Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm and Turgut Ozal headed the first session of Syrian-Turkish talks which were attended by members of the Turkish and Syrian delegations. At the beginning of the session Al-Kasm welcomed Ozal and members of the Turkish delegation and affirmed the importance of the two countries' achievements in the field of development and the importance of holding such meetings. He pointed out that the subjects under discussion are aimed at promoting cooperation between Syria and Turkey in the interest of both peoples.

Ozal thanked Dr al-Kasm for the hospitality he and his accompanying delegation were accorded in Damascus and affirmed the positive results of Al-Kasm's visit to Ankara — a visit which began the favourable results achieved by Ozal's current visit to Damascus. He asserted that the cooperation between the two countries has the potential to solidify the process of promoting Syrian-Turkish relations.

During the session the two sides discussed wide-ranging issues and formed follow-up committees to make cooperation proposals in all fields.

Meeting With Al-Asad

JN161340 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal at 1215 today. Those attending the meeting were Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 'Isam al-Na'ib,Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu, Syria's ambassador to Turkey, and Turkey's ambassador to Syria.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu and the delegation accompanying him. Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur and Syrian Ambassador to Turkey 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rifa'i also attended this meeting, where existing cooperative ties between the two neighborly countries, the current regional situation, and issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal today visited the liberated city of Al-Qunaytirah. He was accompanied by 'Isam al-Na'ib, minister of state for foreign affairs and head of the escort mission accompanying him; the Syrian ambassador to Ankara; the Turkish ambassador to Damascus; and the Turkish Embassy staff. He

was received and seen off at the entrance to Al-Qunaytirah by its governor, Hasan al-Saqqa; the governor of Al-Qunaytirah Province; the provincial chief of police; and members of the provincial local administration's executive bureau.

On arrival in Al-Qanaytirah, a girl presented Ozal with a bouquet of flowers. Following a short rest in the governorate building, Al-Saqqa explained the situation in the province prior to its occupation. He explained: Al-Qunaytirah fell during the June 1967 war of aggression, and was liberated following the October war of liberation. President Hafiz al-Asad in June 1974 hoisted the national flag in the skies of Al-Qunaytirah, where it will continue to flutter evermore. He said the city was deliberately and savagely destroyed by Israel in an incomprehensible manner violating international law and norms and UN resolutions. Its inhabitants were forcibly expelled from the city. The governor added: We want peace. Our friends adopted a good stand, and we pursue a policy of reconstruction as a prelude to liberation. He explained the various projects being implemented in the province.

In conclusion, Al-Saqqa expressed the hope that Ozal would visit Al-Qunaytirah again when the entire Syrian Arab territory of the Golan Heights is liberated and returned to its rightful owners. The governor then presented Ozal with a gift symbolizing 26 June 1974, the day of Al-Qunaytirah's liberation.

Ozal, the delegation accompanying him, and the governor then toured the city and viewed traces of the savage destruction caused by the Zionist aggressors shortly before their withdrawal.

Ozal also visited the Martyrs Cemetery in Al-Qunaytirah and placed a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. He and those present recited verses from the Koran in honor of the good martyrs' souls. Ozal wrote in the visitors' book: Long live the martyrs who sacrificed themselves for the liberation of Al-Qunaytirah.

Ozal then made a statement to the SANA correspondent, declaring: The important and basic thing making an impression on me is those citizens who were victims of the Israeli occupation and who sacrificed their lives to save their country. The second thing that moved me is the liberated Al-Qunaytirah.

UN Under Secretary General Meets With President

JN151355 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general, at 1200 today. Major General 'Adnan Tayyarah attended. Those attending the meeting discussed the current situation in the region. They also reviewed the prospects of holding an international Middle East peace conference. The situation in southern Lebanon, in the light of the continuing Israeli occupation of some areas there, was also analyzed.

Received by Vice President

JN151859 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general, at 1200 today [as heard]. Major 'Adnan Tayyarah attended.

Talks revolved around the current situation in the region, the prospects of holding an international Middle East peace conference, and the situation in southern Lebanon in light of the continuing Israeli occupation.

'Tyrant Saddam' Criticized in Arab Student's Murder

PM151401 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 5 Jul 87 p 9

[Unattributed article: "Saddam's Regime Failed To Conceal Evidence of a New Crime"]

[Text] The fascist regime in Iraq recently added a new crime to the many crimes it has already committed against our Arab people in Iraq and our Arab nation. In response to the regime's orders, its agents and mercenaries assassinated Sudanese student Al-Tayyib al-Amin al-Nurabi. It seems that the healthy appetite of Saddam's fascist regime is no longer satisfied with the hundreds of crimes it commits daily, claiming an enormous number of victims among Iraqi citizens. Therefore, the regime has begun to transform Iraq into an arena for murdering non-Iraqi Arabs residing there who refuse to take part in its mad war against Iran or to implement its policies hostile to the Arab nation.

The fact is that this crime is not the first of its kind, since the Iraqi regime has persisted in bargaining with Arab students studying at Iraqi universities by exerting various repressive pressures on them; either they join the regime or else they will be dismissed from their universities and expelled from the country. If a Sudanese, Tunisian, or Egyptian student openly refuses to submit to bargaining or blackmail, he will be subject to savage repression — at best, beatings, imprisonment and torture.

Many Arab students in Iraq have disappeared in mysterious circumstances and no traces of them have been found. This confirms the truth of reports that many students have died in Iraqi prisons because of torture.

Though the regime of the tyrant Saddam was able to conceal such crimes several times, it has failed to do so this time, it has failed to hide the evidence of its crime. It has also failed to shroud its crime in mystery to eliminate suspicion, as it used to do. This time the fascist Iraqi regime could not remove the stains of its victims' blood, since there was a lot of blood spilt.

The Arab Sudanese student Al-Tayyib al-Amin al-Nurabi, who was registered at Mosul University and assassinated by the tyrant Saddam's agents, was not the first of a series of victims among Arab students and others residing in Iraq who refused to submit to the tyrant's orders, support his mad war or join his spies, agents, and mercenaries, whom he exploits against the national popular opposition in Iraq. However, his assassination, as shown by the protest and condemnation of Sudanese public

opinion in particular and Arab public opinion in general, has urgently raised the question of the repression to which students who refuse to join the march of the fascist rule in Iraq are being subjected. This assassination has also raised the need for the Arab states to shoulder responsibilities for their students at Iraqi universities. Such a need in turn raises a more important and comprehensive need, namely joint Arab responsibility toward our Arab people in Iraq.

The repressive pressures to which non-Iraqi Arabs are subjected in Iraq to force them to serve the low objectives of the tyrant Saddam are in fact an integral part of the repression to which the Iraqi masses are being subjected and which has reached a level of atrocity similar to that of the Nazi era.

A regime that rules its people via repression and confiscates their political, democratic, and union rights — to the extent that it forcibly pushes this people into a futile war in order to destroy and murder them — cannot, whatever pan-Arab slogans it raises, be expected to serve its nation and the sons of its nation, nor can it be expected to back its nation and the sons of its nation. By declaring its criminal war the fascist Iraqi regime has in fact openly declared that it is against Iraq, the Arab nation, and the central cause of Palestine and that it is the best executor of the U.S.-Israeli scheme hostile to Arab objectives with regard to unity, freedom and socialism. It did not take the butcher of Iraq long to to turn Iraq into a graveyard for every Arab voice, be it Iraqi or non-Iraqi, that opposes or refuses to follow his criminal path.

Saddam's fascist regime has assassinated Sudanese student Al-Tayyib al-Amin al-Nurabi and many students and workers from various Arab countries before him, and is continuing to commit its crimes and torture against all opponents as well as neutrals within the framework of his mad impulse to murder the Arab people in Iraq.

The fact that remains is that this mad impetuosity of the butcher of Iraq, who is infatuated with skulls, means that the butcher is coming closer to his end. Is the diffusion of murder not proof that the murderer is reaching a dead end and suffocating?

Foreign Minister Visits Kuwait, Saudi Arabia

JN160758 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned from Kuwait to Damascus late last night. Al-Shar' arrived in Al-Ta'if yesterday afternoon. He was received by Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Al-Shar' was later received by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to whom he gave a letter from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on Arab and Gulf issues.

The foreign minister then proceeded to Kuwait where he was received by the country's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad. Al-Shar' later called on Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah and gave him a letter from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on Gulf developments.

Najibullah Speech on Cease-Fire, Reconciliation
LD160246 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 0600 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Kabul, 14 Jul, *Bakhtar* — Radio and television address by Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, broadcast last night on the occasion of the last day of the cease-fire in the country.

Text of Address
Televised Address, 14 July
In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear compatriots, brothers, and sisters:

Today I want to address those who are continuing the struggle against our popular sovereignty, those who are in the opposition detachments and parties, and those who are still outside the country. I address them as follows:

We believe that once you have listened to us and understood us, you will think about the destiny of the people and our common homeland as we do. Today all of us live in a time which is full of difficulties and problems. This fact needs no proof.

Let us think together about what can we learn from this bitter experience. Let us listen to experience and wisdom, not to use weapons. Let us stop killing each other. If we do not do this today, right now, tomorrow will be too late. Do we understand this fact? We come to you with an invitation to talk, to seek a reasonable and necessary resolution to the present situation. Our compatriots have found such a solution and have called it the policy of national reconciliation. We believe more and more with every passing day that this peaceful policy has no other alternative from the viewpoint of logic, reasonable thinking, the vital interests of the people, and the tenets of our sacred religion.

I want to particularly emphasize that during these 9 years of fratricidal war we have not resolved even a single issue which caused the war, not a single issue. Now it has become clear that one cannot resolve these issues by military means.

No matter how one sees the policy of national reconciliation, it cannot be rejected out of hand. This policy is now changing our lives. Our armed forces have been strengthened and are gaining experience in carrying out combat operations independently. The First 5-Year Plan since the revolution is being implemented. Material assistance to the poorest strata of society has increased considerably. Some 3,200 commissions of national reconciliation have been created in the localities. Tens of thousands of patriots and strugglers of the path of peace, including more than 6,000 representatives of the opposition, are cooperating with the commissions of national reconciliation. The number of those who some time ago were fighting against us in the ranks of the opposition and who today cooperate with us in the cause of peace is constantly growing. More than 6,000 people have been released from prisons.

Our achievements during the last 6 months are far greater than what has taken years to achieve. The essence of reconciliation lies in the fact that the people themselves have started to build residences; to reconstruct bridges, roads, and canals; and to work on the land. These are very pleasant facts. Since the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation, the PDPA and the DRA Government have taken practical and constructive steps, such as: the declaration of the unilateral cease-fire, the general amnesty of prisoners, the approval of the decree on the return of the returnees' properties, the writing off of the peasants' back taxes, the decree on new land and water allocation, the provision of employment to returnees, the passing of the law on political parties, and the publication of the draft constitution. Flexibility was shown in the Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Similarly, other documents constitute the legal and judicial base of national reconciliation.

All these measures have been taken to prepare the ground for establishing contacts and dialogues between the PDPA, the DRA Government, and the opposition in order to end the war of fratricide, to stop aggression and interference, and to prepare conditions for the return of the limited contingents of Soviet troops.

Reconciliation is gaining strength despite threats and obstacles. Is it possible to destroy the idea of peace? It is hard to imagine that one can destroy the idea and desire for peace. Noble efforts have satisfied the thirst for peace. Springs of peace should be transformed into roaring rivers. Peace will wash away all the blood that has been shed in our country in more than 9 years of war and fratricide.

Therefore, history will put this issue before our people: Either the opposition will engage in dialogue on the basis of national reconciliation and in the interests of the people and the country — which will undoubtedly lead us toward peace — or bloodshed will result in the annihilation of our people. A third alternative does not exist.

Now I will touch upon some fundamental issues that have so far kept us apart. I begin with an important issue. During these 9 years, different perceptions about the homeland and its future have brought us face to face. How do we see our homeland? Afghanistan is and will be a state with national sovereignty, neutrality, and nonalignment. For the creation of the new way of thinking, courage and sacrifice was essential. What do these words mean?

An Afghanistan with national sovereignty — that is, an Afghanistan with independence and in charge of its destiny — is not under the influence of anybody except the will of God and the will of its people. What here is not satisfactory to those members of the opposition? For which Afghanistan do you struggle except the one mentioned above? Which one of you wants to see Afghanistan in a different form? Think about this.

Neutral [preceding word underlined] means that the country will not take part in armed disputes or in any military alliances or blocs and will not put its territory at the disposal of foreign military forces or foreign military bases. This means that Afghanistan will go forward on its path, a path toward peace and creativity. It means that no one will force Afghanistan to shed the blood of its sons and the tears of its mothers and husbands and wives for foreign interests.

So what point of this principle do you not agree with? Does anyone want Afghanistan to be dependent on foreign will?

Nonaligned [preceding word underlined] means that Afghanistan will not join any of the military-political alliances or blocs, will struggle for peaceful coexistence among all the states with various regimes, and will support national liberation movements.

All its political actions in the international arena, including international treaties, will not be in conflict with the great powers. Think about this point. Which one of you wants to see Afghanistan as dependent on foreign will? What here does not satisfy you? Or do you want to drag our country into international conflicts and make it an insignificant pawn in world politics? Or do you want to become servants of the well-known circles of Western reaction, so that they can feed and arm you? When these circles declare their intention to continue the war to the last Afghan, what is your reply to them? Think about this.

Let us assess another serious question: This question is the form of administration in Afghanistan based on compromise and coalition, based on peace and national unity. We say frankly that the view of coalition sovereignty is not mere propaganda or a tactical maneuver, nor deception and trickery. It is a categorical and sincere policy through which we should reach a cease-fire and dialogue, and achieve conditions under which there will be no place for armed aggression. We are officially and in practice ready to divide power. We announce our decision as follows:

Which are the parties with which we will compromise? Supporters of Muhammad Zahir Shah, the ex-king; the three-party alliance of the national Islamic parties and the moderates; political and social personalities of the past regimes; second rank leaders of the armed groups; tribal leaders; leftist democratic organizations; the clergy, entrepreneurs, and private investors; commanders of the armed opposition groups inside the country; refugees; and other parties, organizations, and personalities inside and outside the country, in the event they show an interest in realizing national reconciliation.

The positions being considered in the compromise are: deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Council, or vice president after the approval of the constitution; deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; supreme judge of the Supreme Court; the Ministry of Foreign Trade; the Ministry of Mines and Industries; the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education; the Ministry of Tribal Affairs; the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Agriculture; the Ministry of Irrigation; the Ministry of Islamic Affairs; the Ministry of Construction Affairs; president of the State Cultural Committee; the Ministry of Public Health; the Ministry of Nationalities Affairs; the Ministry of Light Industries and Foodstuffs; the State Committee for Returnees; the State Committee for Labor and Social Security; the minister of state for foreign affairs; the minister of state for foreign economic relations; the minister of state for nationalities affairs; the minister of state for tribal affairs; the State Committee for Sports and Physical Education; minister advisers for planning, social, legal and economic affairs; and ambassadors and roving ambassadors.

In addition, the party representatives can be included in the leadership of other ministries. In order to completely realize the policy of national reconciliation, even the position of the chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, under the conditions of coalition, could be discussed between the parties participating in the coalition.

The government of national unity to the point of coalition is the manifestation of the political will of all the people for peace. This compromise does not come from weakness, but from a position of strength, wisdom, and experience. Has not Muhammad, peace be upon him, condemned war between Muslim brothers? Does not war run counter to the sacred teachings of the holy Koran? Taking a step on the path toward solving disputes in a peaceful manner in order to stop bloodshed and fractricide is a position worthy of a faithful Muslim. Our fathers and forefathers have shown good examples on several occasions in that one should prove one's righteousness with the power of logic and not with arms; that is, those who take a step toward compromise and coalition are in no way losers but, on the contrary, are winners and they are guaranteed a peaceful life.

On the other hand, we do not want you to merely join the ranks of the PDPA and follow its ideals. It is important to struggle for peace and national reconciliation in our land. It was on the basis of such a common platform that we announced a multiparty system and agreed on the free activity of other parties. We have envisaged all this in separate laws and in the country's new draft constitution. The basic condition that we put forward is the prevention of using weapons in resolving the question of the present and future of Afghanistan.

Thus, the policy of national reconciliation is not the imposition of one person's will on another, but is a natural movement from war to peace, from today to tomorrow, and from fruitless hostility to constructive trust through cooperation in the construction of an Afghanistan with national sovereignty, neutrality, and nonalignment — the home of all its children.

In this connection I would like to speak about private ownership and private entrepreneurs. You know that in the first years of the revolution mistakes were made in this regard. Some time ago a very important law concerning private investment was enacted, which provides suitable conditions for the growth of investment activity in the private sector. The limits on land ownership have been considerably raised, up to 100 jeribs, and the state has increased economic and technical assistance to landowners. We invite those Afghans who have made investments in the West and are engaged in their own affairs to spend their capital on developing their country's economy. They can create new establishments in Afghanistan where a sufficient work force and other resources exist.

In this area our policy is based on the fact that the state brings about economic and legal bases for long-term, beneficial cooperation with the private sector and national investors within the framework of the mixed sector as well as in its various forms. We believe that agreement could be reached on all questions that have been argued here; however, there is no reason to continue the war and bloodshed.

We are also ready to provide opportunities for Western investment in our country's economy. You know that we have mixed

companies: the Afghan-FRG company, Hoechst; the Afghan-Swiss company, Ahu shoe company; the Afghan-U.S. company, Castrol; the Afghan-Japan company, Afghan Nichi; and other similar establishments where Western capital shares exist. We are prepared to broaden cooperation in this area and provide guarantees for further opportunities and activities in the future. We are also prepared to broaden cooperation in the economic field and in other areas with Pakistan and Iran.

Concerning the relations of the party and state with the sacred religion of Islam:

I would like to highlight this matter because of the existence of great distortions and slanders in this regard. It should be stated that these accounts appeared correct to some extent and some Afghan sons and daughters believed these lies and left the country or joined the ranks of the opposition armed groups. We do not want to accuse them. However, it is important that we should correct the misunderstandings. It is not accidental that we make mistakes in our policies. There are people among you who immediately comprehend those mistakes, but when we eliminate the mistakes or prevent them or when we are successfully traveling on the correct path, they do not allow discussion in those areas to find its way to you. Nevertheless, the essence of the matter is clear to all who have open hearts and eyes for recognizing the truth. It has been precisely mentioned in all state documents that we believe Islam is the religion of the people of Afghanistan and we have categorized this matter in Article 2 of the country's draft constitution.

What was stated has been realized in practice. For the first time in the country's history, a research and training center in Islamic studies in Kabul has been created. Islamic research and the training of Islamic cadres are being organized in the center. The state is underwriting all expenditures for the theology faculty at Kabul University and for 20 religious seminaries. In recent years, some 1,226 mosques have been repaired and built and 231 new mosques have been constructed. The state has allocated 2 billion afghanis for this purpose. This sum is several times more than the sum total of all expenditures for this purpose during the 50 years before the revolution. Our belief in the sacred religion of Islam has been reflected in the state emblem and state flag. This belief has been reflected in the repair of sacred places, the observance of religious values, and the improvement of conditions for the observance of religious tenets and for pilgrimage to the house of God, where some 23,000 people have gone in the years since the revolution. I may add that this figure is considerably more than that before the revolution. At present, the state pays half of the pilgrimage expenditures from its budget; this was never done before. Bakhtar Airlines previously carried several groups of pilgrims to Mecca. In the month of Ramadan, the international holy Koran recitation competition was held which attracted the attention of the entire Islamic world.

It is also correct that dialogue, talks, and cooperation between the sovereign state and the religious leaders are being consistently broadened. More than 1,000 mullahs and religious scholars have been elected to the new local organs of state power and administration. Some 720 spiritual leaders have been included as members of reconciliation councils. In fact, these measures indicate the logical result of the creation of an atmosphere of confidence through cooperation to which we also invite you.

The reality of life proves that the April Revolution and the resulting sovereignty are not in contradiction with Islam. However, those who blow up mosques and martyr mullahs and religious leaders and kill those who strive to keep Afghanistan from becoming a festering wound are in contradiction with Islam. We remember those such as Mawlawi Aqa Muhammad Ludin, Mawlawi Nasrullah Gardezi, Mawlawi Muhammad Qarim Qandahari, Mawlawi Asadullah Nasrat Andkho'i, and Imam Sayed Muhammad Amin Sadr. During the month of Ramadan this year, Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi, the imam of Khalq-e Mubarak in Qandahar, was martyred by terrorists. Had they all committed treason against the sacred religion of Islam? Had they all become infidels? Had they turned against God? Did they not praise God? No. As friends, they had served the people, the homeland, and Islam as noble Muslims and were making efforts toward a prosperous and peaceful life for the people.

At the time of his death, Mawlawi Nasrollah Gardezi said to the Muslims: Islam means love and fraternity among Muslims. The Muslims should share happiness and sorrow with each other. Those who harm other Muslims and trample over the interests of other Muslims for their own self-interests are not Muslims. A number of Afghans who have fallen prey to enemy propaganda cannot correctly judge their interests. However, they will soon realize that they have been deceived by the enemies and then will return to the homeland and, along with other compatriots, will take part in the construction of their country. Let the pure soul of Mawlawi Nasrollah Gardezi and other martyrs invite us toward the path of reconciliation!

Concerning international affairs and relations with the Soviet Union in connection with the limited Soviet military contingents in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan:

The policy of national reconciliation has been warmly welcomed outside the country. International public opinion sees a realistic solution to the Afghan question in the process of national reconciliation. In the United Nations, in the Nonaligned Movement, in the ICO, in the Afghanistan-Pakistan talks in Geneva, in the gatherings of the brother parties and the state, in international social organizations and everywhere we increasingly realize the correctness of this path in the interest of peace. Therefore, the future coalition government, as we hope, with the participation of the parties who are now opposing each other, will commence their activity under suitable international conditions. It should not be forgotten that the DRA, I repeat, the DRA, is officially recognized by all international organizations, the governments of more than 80 countries, and 100 parties and revolutionary movements. All these have assisted the cause of national dialogue and compromise and facilitated and brought it closer, provided we ourselves do not miss this opportunity to take steps toward welcoming each other.

The text of the draft constitution will be published tomorrow. We have prepared it precisely and comprehensively. In our opinion this constitution responds to all the demands and lofty aims of the patriots aiming at securing the well-being of their country and the prosperity of their people.

The party, the Revolutionary Council, and social organizations have prepared a special message for the people in connection with debate on the constitution which will be published tomorrow. All of us are very confident that the debate on the draft constitution of reconciliation -- which, in a word, is an invitation to peace -- will further mobilize the people and all patriotic forces in their struggle for peace. We can tell everyone: Study our constitution and you will be aware of our efforts to achieve peace.

Compatriots, remember those days when the British aggressors were ready to divide Afghanistan and our people were on the verge of losing their independence and freedom? At that time we turned to our northern neighbor, the neighbor with whom we inherited friendship from our ancestors and fathers. In three wars with the British they maintained this friendship and they knew to whom they should extend the hand of friendship. Today the Soviet Union continues to be faithful to historic traditions and good-neighborliness.

During the post-revolution and pre-revolution years we have received comprehensive assistance of great value from the Soviet Union, from salt and matches to mills and factories. We are accustomed to this assistance and we sometimes forget from where all this assistance comes. Is there any country that gives us assistance on such a scale? Is it not clear that the overseas imperialist countries that have allocated large sums of money for the war of fratricide in Afghanistan do not even allocate one dollar for the peaceful progress of this country? Do they send sugar, cooking oil, petroleum, or other commodities? No. They only do this in return for huge profits and only to subjugate us. The experience of Islamic countries such as Palestine, Lebanon, Libya, Iran, and Iraq explains this.

As a matter of fact, we should not approach the issues of Afghan-Soviet relations in an ordinary way or from the standpoint of the present situation; we should approach these issues from an objective and stable position, because always during all the regimes relations between Afghanistan and the northern neighbor were based on friendship and reciprocal interests. Our countries were, are, and will be good neighbors. Our people have lived and will live on the shores of the Amu River and Pamir Mountains. We are neighbors geographically and historically colocated by the will of God. We should not argue with such a thing.

Therefore, under any circumstances relations between the Afghan and Soviet Governments have been and will be good and friendly. This was true at the time of Amanullah Khan, Nadir Shah, Zahir Shah, and Muhammad Dawud. It has been thus since the April Revolution, and will continue under a coalition government. We believe that under no circumstances will anyone be able to abrogate or cancel close bilateral interests and relations, relations based on geographical, historic, and economic reciprocal interests, as well as on the tradition of cooperation and friendship.

We would advise you not to listen to rumors which are spread in the interests of others claiming that the USSR allegedly threatens or restricts Afghanistan's sovereignty, thus requiring you to continue the war; they are stupid lies. I only want to recall the statement made by Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, the earnest and great friend of the people of Afghanistan. Comrade Gorbachev, in reply to the question of Italian newspaper *L'Unita*, said the following:

Sometimes they say that the Soviet Union will agree to a solution to the Afghanistan issue that leaves Afghanistan under Soviet influence. This [words indistinct] is totally untrue. The Soviet Union basically has no sphere of influence and is not trying to create a sphere of influence. However, what is relevant to Afghanistan is that we fully support the stand of the Nonaligned Movement that Afghanistan remain independent, sovereign, and nonaligned.

If Afghanistan decides to be a nonaligned country then this is again a task for the people of Afghanistan. It is important that a speedy, political solution to the Afghanistan issue be based on honest and just principles.

I think that the statement of the Soviet leader does not need interpretation or elaboration. I only add that the Soviet and Afghan Governments will make all efforts to secure and accelerate the political solution to the events around Afghanistan. Then where is the difficulty?

If you are in favor of this then lets us shake hands for the reconstruction of Afghanistan and let us go forward together for the revival of Afghanistan. We extend a friendly hand, not asking forgiveness but friendship; a hand must be offered.

I have also referred earlier to the contingent of Soviet troops. Again I repeat that there is complete accord in this respect between the DRA and Soviet Union. Once again I repeat that after the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy measures will be implemented to open the door for talks and contacts between the DRA Government and the opposition in order to end the war and fratricide. Interference and aggression are to be stopped and the necessary conditions are to be prepared for the return of the Soviet units that came to assist us, as our historic friends in the difficult days, at our request and in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

If the opposition removes its finger from the trigger, stops its interference and aggression, and guarantees that it will not repeat its actions, then the unpaved road will become paved and conditions will be prepared for the return of the limited units of the Soviet Union.

If the opposition does not (?act) responsibly regarding the measures taken by the DRA Government, this means they are only chanting slogans about the return of the limited units of the Soviet Union while under cover they benefit from the Soviet Union's units presence and use this as a pretext to accumulate millions of dollars from the West and deposit these sums in their accounts. This means that they keep the market strong for the purchase of arms from the West and are in favor of maintaining the situation of turmoil in Afghanistan and in the region. It means they do not want the limited units of the Soviet Union to return to their peace-loving country. Under these circumstances, all responsibility and consequences of such an approach will rest on the opposition. Now we allow our compatriots and the world's

public to judge who is in favor of the return of the limited units of the Soviet Union.

We should also think about another issue: Yes, we intend to work earnestly toward peace without deviation. However, this intention requires decisiveness in order to defend the process of reconciliation and its first fruits and gains against those who want to destroy these gains, our desires, and ourselves. We will never allow this. We do not want to threaten anyone but it is dishonest not to speak clearly in this respect. Yes, we are defending and will defend the process of national reconciliation, the peaceful future of the people, and our homeland.

Let the cause of great peace become victorious in our country, in the region, and all over the world. Let the fighting of the opposition forces be transformed into a joint struggle for a peaceful life and for prosperity for our families, children, and for ourselves, for all of our people.

Compatriots, the sacred religion of Islam says that a charitable task is one that takes place in the country in the interests of one's compatriots. True Muslims are those who open their doors before other compatriots on ordinary days and on holidays and who come back to their villages and accept you as a guest in your homes. Almighty God will reward you.

Think carefully: For 9 years you have not worked on or set foot on your land or your fertile plots. For 9 years you have not seen your vineyards or your green and fertile orchards. The beautiful villages, your ancestors' and fathers' villages, your orchards and vineyards, your relatives and friends, and your beloved ones are all waiting for you. Return to your ancestors' and fathers' home and land. Your dwellings, your families, your children, and your beloved ones are waiting for you. The homeland is waiting for you. You should know that joint peaceful work is waiting for you in your homeland, peaceful work for a free and prosperous life. No one will be prosecuted for past actions. This can be proven by the return of 62,000 refugees to the country. Many opportunities will be given to you to take part in the social life, to express your opinion, and to form associations and organizations so that you can properly and fully secure your interests on the basis of national reconciliation and avoidance of armed struggle. Unemployment will not threaten you. On the contrary, the wisdom and knowledge of the compatriots are needed more than at any other time. Necessary assistance will be given to you in finding work and shelter. Your children will be admitted to schools and teaching centers and you will breathe the pure air of the homeland.

Here again, for the realization of the national reconciliation policy, for the cessation of war and fratricide, and the restoration of peace in the country, starting tomorrow, 15 July, we announce a complete cease-fire for another 6 months, until 15 January.

Our armed forces will only resort to crushing blows in retaliation; they will only destroy military bases, convoys carrying weapons, and ammunition. If the opposition seriously observes this accord, our soldiers will not trouble anybody.

We are prepared to form a coalition government in the near future and to assess jointly the draft constitution. The text is being published in the press. Tomorrow you will read this most important document of national reconciliation.

We are prepared to secure the necessary conditions in the country for peaceful work and a tranquil life; we await your answer.

Brothers and sisters, leaders of the opposition parties and organizations outside the country, peasants, tradesmen, shopkeepers, representatives of the intelligentsia, chiefs and clergymen, ulema, youths, elders, and all compatriots who for various reasons are living outside the country, why should you live in a foreign land! For what reason does this war, death, bloodshed, wounds, and deformity continue? The doors of the homes are open before you. There is enough room in the homeland for everyone. The homeland is waiting for you.

Long live national reconciliation!

Long live our united homeland, Afghanistan!

The people of Afghanistan have one heart, that is to say, a united country. Success comes from God.

Journalists' Visit Postponed Due to 'Problems'

AU151343 Paris AFP in English 1335 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, July 15 (AFP) — Afghan authorities have called off a planned visit by foreign journalists hoping for a first hand view of developments in Afghanistan, the Afghan Embassy announced here Wednesday. It said the cancellation was because of the "difficult situation" in Afghanistan.

The trip was to coincide with the latest attempt to re-establish a cease-fire announced by the Afghan Government earlier Wednesday.

An embassy official said a telex had been sent from Kabul and it was decided that because of problems in the country: "the authorities don't have enough time to look after journalists."

The press trip was to have been the fourth since the present leader Najibullah came to power in 1986.

It is believed that increasing attacks on Russian helicopters and planes by Afghan rebels led to a change of heart.

Rival Student Groups Clash at Dhaka University
BK151000 Hong Kong AFP in English
0945 GMT 15 Jul 87

[By Golam Tahaboor]

[Text] Dhaka, July 15 (AFP) — Heavily-armed riot police Wednesday cordoned off Dhaka University campus as rival student groups clashed in the wake of anti-government strikes, the university vice-chancellor's office said.

Elsewhere, long queues formed at banks and there were hectic scenes at bus and rail stations as passengers stranded during three days of anti-government strikes tried to get on the first available transport, witnesses said.

Wednesday's clashes at Dhaka University followed clashes between rival student groups late Tuesday in which one student member of an anti-government group was shot dead. Pro-government and anti-government student groups armed with guns fired shots into the air during Wednesday's clashes, witnesses said. Several hundred riot police blocked all roads leading to the campus and diverted traffic, but had not moved to enter the university, witnesses said.

The clashes came after a third day of strikes Tuesday by anti-government political and student organisations protesting over the 1987-88 budget and a bill providing for the appointment of military men to district councils and calling for the resignation of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Elsewhere in the capital, people returned to work Wednesday and there were busy scenes as people tried to catch up on lost time during the three days of strikes, which virtually paralysed the capital, witnesses said.

The opposition groups, who had threatened to start a "relentless" mass movement if President Ershad did not step down, have said they are planning further anti-government action.

Traffic began to return to the roads late Tuesday and offices, banks and shops opened for business as usual on Wednesday, witnesses said. A counter clerk in one bank in Dhaka's busy Motijheel commercial area said the counters were full of clients and heavy banking transactions had been carried out since early Wednesday. He said clients were trying to make up for losses they had suffered during the three days of strikes in Dhaka and elsewhere.

The capital's three major long-distance bus terminals, which had been lifeless, abandoned garages for the past three days, saw hectic scenes as stranded passengers hauled their baggage from one overcrowded bus to another in search of seats, witnesses said. Rail stations and motor ferry piers were also busy, as delayed trains and launches arrived and staff worked to restore normal schedules.

The latest anti-government unrest began Sunday with a 24-hour strike for better pay and conditions called by the Industrial and Transport Workers' Union, SKOP.

The same day, riot police clashed with opposition supporters after the ruling Jatiya Party rushed through a controversial bill providing for Armed Forces' representation in the country's 64 district administrations, prompting a walkout by opposition members of parliament. The opposition had already warned of continuing anti-government action following the announcement of the new budget, which they said was "anti-people" and would burden the poor with additional taxes.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the chief of the parliamentary opposition whose Awami League Party heads an eight-party opposition alliance warned Tuesday that they would wage a "relentless" movement for the ouster of the government unless it scrapped the new tax proposals and the controversial district council representation bill. The eight-party alliance said that if the government did not scrap the new taxes and the district council representation bill by Sunday it would face further anti-government moves.

Awami League sources said that the top leadership was considering calling a two-day or three-day nationwide general strike next week.

Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury has warned the opposition not to undermine the liberal attitude shown by the government so far, while Information Minister Anwar Zahid urged Sheikh Hasina to desist from "conspiracies" to overthrow the government.

Dhaka University Closed
BK151554 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Dhaka University has been closed for an indefinite period and the students have been asked to vacate the residential halls immediately.

A university press release says the syndicate took the decision following the deteriorating law and order situation in the campus.

Resignation of Muslim From Congress-I Criticized
BK151300 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] The minister of state for food and civil supplies, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, has said it is most unfortunate and shocking that Mufti Mohammad Sayed chose to resign at a time when the Congress-I is engaged in fighting separatist, communal, and regional forces. In a statement in New Delhi today, Mr Azad said it is sad that Mufti Mohammad Sayed has chosen a moment like this to weaken the party.

The minister asserted that the Congress-I and the government in general and the prime minister in particular have always been consistently fighting these forces. He referred to the resignation of Mufti Mohammad Sayed and said that for his own political ends he has blamed the government for not dealing firmly with communal riots in Meerut. Mr Azad said this is just an excuse and recalled that Mufti Mohammad Sayed had acutally forwarded his resignation in March this year when there were no Meerut riots. The minister pointed out (? that) the reason for resignation of Mufti Mohammad Sayed in March was that he had not reconciled himself with the accord between the Congress-I and the National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir. He said the accord was in the interest of the people of the state and the nation as a whole.

Prominent Congress-I Members Expelled
BK151553 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] The Congress-I president has expelled Mr V.C. Shukla, Mr Arun Nehru, and Mr Arif Mohammad Khan [all former federal ministers] from the party. The action has been taken for their antiparty activities.

Motive Behind Gandhi's Moscow Talks Questioned
BK151016 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English
7 Jul 87 p 8

[Editorial: "Banking on Moscow"]

[Text] It is ironic that Mr Rajiv Gandhi should have chosen the occasion of a brief visit to Moscow to inform the world that India had not won its freedom "to become camp followers of others". Regardless of the undoubted strategic value of Indo-Soviet friendship, which the Prime Minister once claimed had been tested "through times good and bad" some aspects of the recent visit disturbingly resembled a beleaguered satrap's pilgrimage — accompanied by troupes of performing entertainers — to pay homage to and seek comfort from, the political overlord. In the event — if Mr Gandhi's high spirits on the flight back home is anything to go by — he was not disappointed in Mr Gorbachev's explicit support and reassurance for the future though it is unlikely that India's own image in the world has been enhanced by the relationship as it appears to be. It is hardly flattering to the self-respect of a so- called nonaligned country when its Prime Minister appears to go rushing to the Kremlin in search of a certificate to prop up his domestic prestige. This kind of appellant's role, though vehemently denied, violates the legacy of independence of which Mr Gandhi is the custodian. It is conceivable that Mr Gorbachev's gratuitous compliments were directed at the Indian Left whose support Mr Gandhi desperately needs to counter the growing number of his opponents within the Congress (I), but when the signal for this is publicly broadcast from the Kremlin, it merely confirms how vulnerable the government has become.

Mr Gandhi was of course, right to emphasize the "unique" nature of India's relationship with the Soviet Union. But Moscow's significance does not stem merely from the growing importance of the Russian market for Indian manufacturers, its value as a source of sophisticated military hardware or even from a shared abhorrence of colonialism and imperialism. That India has always been cited as the supreme success of Soviet foreign policy is due to a mature relationship based on a common perspective and appreciation of regional security. Although the Indo-Soviet treaty of 1971, in effect, guarantees Soviet military protection for this country in the event of big power intervention in South Asia, the relationship is not primarily military. By preserving its nonaligned status while, at the same time, building up a special relationship with Moscow, New Delhi may have appeared hypocritical in Washington's eyes. But it may be recalled that Mrs Gandhi as chairman of NAM [Nonaligned Movement] consciously steered the group away from the kind of identification with Moscow that had marked the tenure of her predecessor, Mr Fidel Castro. In addition both Jawaharlal Nehru and Mrs Gandhi deliberately made a point of avoiding Moscow's direct involvement in the country's internal affairs which explained why, despite its initial misgivings, the Janata government maintained continuity in foreign policy. It would now seem that Mr Gandhi has given a new twist to Indo-Soviet relations. Coming close on the heels of Mr Dobrynin's visit which prepared the ground for the softening up of the Indian Left, Mr Gorbachev's endorsement of the Prime Minister's regime marks a new phase of New Delhi's growing dependence on Moscow. In his desperate bid to survive at all costs, Mr Gandhi seems to have converted India's treaty relationship with the Soviet Union into an instrument of party politics.

Anger Over Assault on Diplomat in Geneva Continues

French Actions Condemned

NC160616 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] The Iranian diplomat posted to the embassy in Paris who was manhandled by French police in the French section of Geneva Airport on Saturday, 11 July, and who was later admitted to the hospital with severe injuries, returned to Tehran this morning. Mr Mohsen Aminzadeh is unable to speak and was brought on a stretcher under special supervision to Tehran, accompanied by his wife and two children. He was immediately taken to one of Tehran's hospitals and admitted to its special ward.

Mr Aminzadeh sustained severe injuries to the head and to one of his eyes as a result of blows inflicted by the French police. He is presently unable to speak. He is also suffering from extreme emotional distress and convulsions. Following an initial checkup in the hospital's emergency room and a study of his case history, Mr Aminzadeh was transferred to the special treatment ward for diagnostic tests and medication.

The political deputy at the Foreign Ministry spoke to our correspondent about the details of the incident, the role of the French police, and the steps being taken by the Foreign Ministry with regard to the event. He said: This bestial act contravenes the Vienna Convention. Despite the fact that the French charge d'affaires in Tehran apologized for the unlawful behavior of the French police during his meeting with officials from our Foreign Ministry, we nevertheless will follow up this incident and will make the appropriate decisions once all the facts are known.

He added: Since this incident, as well as in the contacts we have had with the French authorities, we have unfortunately witnessed not only their deliberate misinterpretation of their own laws, but also their failure to abide by the laws that they have accepted. The political deputy then referred to Mr Aminzadeh's physical condition. He stated: This incident will definitely have serious repercussions on Iranian-French relations. We will not permit France or any other country to violate bilateral commitments. Hence, we are waiting for the French authorities to submit explanations before we take some necessary firm decisions and display an appropriate reaction.

In conclusion, he thanked the Swiss officials for their cooperation. He said: The French security department has indirectly admitted to stealing documents from the Iranian diplomat. Unfortunately, we are forced to say that Mr Aminzadeh was a victim of the West's so-called adherence to international laws.

Break in Ties Threatened

LD160915 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned the French charge d'affaires here Pierre La France Thursday and handed over to him a protest note on the "recent illegal measures" by the French Government against Iranian Embassy in Paris.

The Public Relations Office of the Foreign Ministry announcing this added that the protest note indicated that if obstacles in front of the Iranian Embassy in Paris are not removed within the next 72 hours, and if agents involved in the beating up of an Iranian diplomat and stealing of his papers are not punished, Iran will cut off diplomatic relations with France.

The note referred to the repeated violation of the Vienna Convention and creation of obstacles for the Iranian Embassy in Paris by the French Government which practically disturbed activities of the embassy.

It stressed that the French Government had been indifferent towards these illegal measures to the extent that the Iranian diplomat Mohsen Aminzadeh had been beaten up at Geneva airport (French section) and his papers stolen. "The French officials have confessed to this blatant violation," it said.

As a preliminary protest measure against this illegal attitude by the French Government, the Islamic Republic of Iran will reduce to the minimum the number of its embassy staff in Paris within the set deadline, the note added.

U.S. Postpones Reflagging of Kuwaiti Ships

LD151346 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1103 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Political commentary entitled: "The Plan for Protecting Kuwaiti Ships Deferred Again"]

[Text] According to members of the Reagan Administration, the plan for the protection of Kuwaiti ships was to start on 15 July; that is, today. In an interview yesterday, however, the Congressional Armed Services Committee announced that on the basis of reports submitted to that committee, the said plan is to be implemented on 22 July — 8 days from now.

Immediately after this announcement, without confirming or denying the set date for the reflagging of Kuwaiti ships, the White House severely criticized members of Congress for divulging classified information. While refraining from fixing a date for the start of the plan, government officials clearly stated that the reflagging will definitely not take place this week; it will be postponed until next week.

It should be pointed out that, under various pretexts, the starting date of this plan has been postponed several times in the past. The House of Representatives also recently approved deferment of the plan for 90 days. In the meantime, Senate members attempted to approve postponement of the starting date for the plan, but the proposal was not passed in view of the number of votes against it.

In any case, these events — the approval by the House of Representatives, the recent attempt by the Senate, and the second deferment of the starting date for the plan from July 15th to the 22d — basically testify to the fact that the U.S. ruling clique is extremely worried about the unknown consequences of such a decision. Therefore it is trying, step by step, to find a suitable way to avoid such consequences by means of repeated

postponements. Considering the strong opposition by members of the House of Representatives, it seems that the House proposal to defer the plan for 90 days is primarily a way for them to counteract the excuses needed by the Reagan Administration for making such a decision during that period.

Considering the insistance of the Reagan Administration on the necessity for a speedy implementation of the plan to protect Kuwaiti ships, however, this administration is largely worried that a disregard of the various details of the plan would bring Reagan problems considerably more complex than those resulting from McFarlane's abortive trip to Tehran. Therefore, repeated, short-term postponements and proposals to defer the plan for 3 months are primarily due to the deep fear and anxiety that have surrounded the Reagan Administration and his opposition.

Montazeri Condemns U.S., Soviet Presence in Gulf
LD152223 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi, deputies of that ministry, and officials in charge of social insurance met yesterday with the deputy leader, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, in Qom.

During this meeting, the deputy leader thanked those officials who are still busy working and who have not dodged their responsibilities under the country's present sensitive circumstances despite all the shortages and difficulties. He said: The country is presently facing difficult conditions, and the East and West have united against us. You will not easily find a country in the course of history that has been involved in a war for 7 years, a war against all primary and secondary superpowers. It is not Saddam who is fighting against us; in reality, the USSR, the United States, France, and others have united against the revolution and Islam. This demonstrates the greatness of Islam and the revolution.

The superpowers are now experiencing the danger. They invested for about 200 years; they subjected and took over the economies and basic resources of the Islamic countries. The superpowers made us believe that they should be the masters and we the servants. If a nation wanted to rescue itself from the evil of any superpower, it would seek refuge in the lap of another superpower. But for a country and nation to want to fight all superpowers, this was considered impossible. Yet our nation proved that this is not impossible.

His excellency added: Even now the United States and the USSR have come into the Persian Gulf, which is the vital artery of the countries of the region. There is talk of France coming there too. England is also present. All of them have sensed that their colonialist interests are in danger; but if Muslims can persevere, the colonialist powers will surely be defeated. [passage omitted]

The deputy leader asserted: At present, the most deprived individuals are civil servants. In spite of the fact that expenditure has gone up, salaries have remained the same. Of course, this situation must be tolerated, but officials should also try to do something. If the government wants to help its employees,then it should, for instance, limit the subsidies it provides in cities -- which has caused an uncontrollable rise in the urban population — only to government employees. Those who have means and wealth should not benefit from this subsidy. The provision of subsidies in cities also results in the depopulation of rural areas and centers of production, as well as an increase in urban slum dwellings. Eliminating urban subsidies and transferring them for use in providing for the means of production in villages will result in pulling rural migrants back to production activities in villages. [passage omitted]

Musavi Views Profiteering, Relations With France
LD151258 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, today's Cabinet meeting discussed the most important domestic and foreign reports and current regional developments. It also continued its discussion of policies and guidelines for the allocation of foreign exchange, approving them in 2 parts and 16 paragraphs.

Our correspondent said that the acceptance of foreign exchange in domestic transactions by executive organizations has been forbidden under any circumstances in accordance with one of the paragraphs of that bill.

During this meeting, a report on the construction of the Khazar cement factory was presented to the Cabinet. All installation and production stages have been successfully accomplished as a result of the efforts exerted by our country's experts and engineers.

At the end of today's Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi answered questions put to him by our correspondent. The interview is as follows:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Musavi, the plan to fight against profiteering has recently begun throughout the country in an extensive way. Could you please tell us what the government plans to do to strengthen the battle against profiteering.

[Musavi] As you have mentioned, this plan is a comprehensive one. It has been discussed twice at joint seminars of executive leaders and honorable governors general in Tehran. Attempts have been made to bring about adequate coordination between the judiciary and the executive in this regard. It has also been said that practical steps should be taken in this area and that we should advance gradually. On this basis, certain goods have been earmarked for price fixing. Other goods will also be controlled so that they will not be subjected to a growing rate of inflation. In accordance with this, circulars have been sent to all provinces and certain work in this regard has begun. Reports on the progress of this work will be received in the coming days.

If the brothers who work in mass media support this effort as a religious duty, it will naturally be a great help to the government. Of course, certain steps have been taken during the past 2-3 days. The repercussions of these steps have become quite clear in Tehran, including the closing of a couple of open vegetable and

fruit markets which were charging very high prices and were engaged in extortion. This affected the pattern of public consumption and gave rise to wide differences in Tehran and even throughout the country. Fortunately, as a result of the positive steps taken by the judiciary and the coordination that is stipulated in Article 50 of the commission — if I am not mistaken, the article concerning the laws regarding the guilds — we have witnessed extraordinary results. Telephone calls to the Prime Minister's Office and reports which we have received demonstrate extensive public support for these measures.

We urge that these measures be decisively continued. It should be added that these measures constitute only a part of the battle against inflation and high prices. The other part concerns more profound economic problems of the country, but steps will also be taken to deal with them. Here I should mention that the decisiveness of the brothers in the judiciary and the executive branch is strongly supported by the government. We expect the judiciary to take decisive steps against profiteering and actions contrary to government guidelines, whether in the state sector or in the private sector. The government will strongly support such measures.

[Correspondent] Mr Musavi, according to reports we have received, the plan to reflag Kuwaiti ships has been delayed by 1 week. What is your interpretation of this decision, and what will be the reaction of the Iranian Government?

[Musavi] Well, we know nothing about their plans and programs, but we do know what our own plans and programs are. I think that we have said our last word on this. It is natural that our future measures and the subsequent actions of our Navy will depend on the U.S. measures and on those forces that are escalating tension in the Persian Gulf.

[Correspondent] The French consul in Tehran has recently been summoned by the Islamic Revolution public prosecutor on charges of espionage. In view of the (?Mitterrand government's decision to normalize relations), what will the outcome of this incident be on the two countries' relations?

[Musavi] (?As a whole) we do not see any sign to show that there is a united decisionmaking body in France to guide that country's foreign policy. In our opinion, the present clashes between various political factions within France have endangered the national interests of France throughout the world, particularly in the Middle East. We have repeatedly declared that we are not prepared to put up with any pressure exerted upon our citizens in any part of the world, or with any pressure exerted on ourselves. Any such pressure will lead to retaliatory pressure. Unfortunately, since the beginning of the revolution, France has pursued certainsatanic policies against our system, and it is still continuing these policies.

I remember that in the year 1360 [21 March 1981-20 March 1982] they extensively supported the counterrevolution, ship piracy, and plane hijacking. This so-called civilized country has perpetrated deeds that we must say were truly disgraceful. They are continuing to pursue similar deeds now. Let us suppose that it was their envoy...[Musavi changes thought] This official Iranian envoy was traveling through France; [what would their reaction have been] if several savage police officers had assaulted them? One must say that if this is a civilization of which they are proud, then we hate it. We cannot hesitate for one moment in confronting such deeds committed in the name of civilization. We believe that world public opinion has also noticed this point. Where in the world would one expect to see a diplomat beaten up, wounded, and left with a concussion, his documents snatched for photocopying? Even if this was for espionage purposes, they should have followed certain techniques and secrecy. Such violation of international conventions clearly demonstrates what sort of powers we are dealing with.

In any case, we follow certain principles in connection with our foreign policy. We do not wish to clash with any country without reason. We are prepared to establish relations with the entire world on the basis of equality and balanced relations, and we are prepared to maintain our links. However, should these relations be treated unfairly, or should they follow an arrogant attitude, we would not continue such relations for even one moment. We believe that our principles must have greater priority. Our principles are more worthy to us than some relations which suited the monarchy regime. [end recording]

Commentary Looks at Oliver North Testimony

NC151058 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary: "North's Confessions and Reagan's Situation"]

[Text] The testimony given by Colonel Oliver North, the ousted deputy chairman [title as heard] of the U.S. National Security Council [NSC], over the last several days concluded with results contrary to those that were expected. During this period, the mass media devoted considerable coverage to North's remarks.

It should be explained that because of his former position and his active participation in McFarlane's futile trip to Tehran, North is among the small circle of people knowledgeable about many of the Reagan Administration's behind-the-scenes acts and policies. Prior to his testimony, members of the Reagan Administration were primarily concerned that Oliver North's presence before congressional investigating committees would lead to more problems that would further complicate the crisis within the U.S. leadership and that would confront North with extremely complicated problems as well.

During his testimony, however, Oliver North displayed great dexterity and actually succeeded in altering public opinion in his favor and in gaining unexpected popularity among the American people. It is interesting to note that in his remarks North also explicitly confessed to previous accusations leveled against him,including destroying extremely sensitive confidential documents, violating laws, and lying to Congress and the people.

Therefore, in view of the outcome of these inquiries and the extensive propaganda that preceded them with regard to Oliver North's role as the main violator of laws, it appears that the major attention and accusations will now focus on former NSC Chairman [title as heard] John Poindexter, for whom North acted

as deputy. North remained silent during his testimony with regard to Reagan's knowledge or lack thereof of acts in support of the Nicaraguan contras and has left clarification of these issues up to his former boss. Moreover, one may say that Oliver North's confessions will not be very favorable for the Reagan Administration and the White House. Had it been possible to blame Oliver North for everything, the Reagan Administration could have stressed Reagan's lack of knowledge, condemned the arbitrariness of some NSC members, and thus paved the way for ending the current crisis, especially since in the initial phase of the crisis, Reagan fired Oliver North immediately following the revelation of the latter's role in the supply of arms to the Nicaraguan contras. Reagan could thus have exonerated himself from the consequences of the violation of the congressional decision not to support the contras. Had these conditions prevailed, Reagan's opponents could have emphasized the President's incompetence and his ignorance of acts carried out by the NSC. This would have achieved part of their objectives,including weakening the Republicans and winning the presidential election.

At any rate, the White House has once again emphasized Reagan's ignorance of Oliver North's role in the supply of arms to the contras. However, experience has shown that past White House positions have not proved to be very credible when confirming or refuting other issues. With his contradictory statements, the President has shown repeatedly that he has always intended to either confirm or deny whatever he deems favorable depending upon the situation.

The course of developments and America's domestic incidents primarily show that despite the Reagan Administration's efforts, this crisis may continue until the start of the presidential campaign. However, the important point is that the Reagan Administration — in continuing its efforts to extricate itself from the crisis and to free the Republicans from the unfavorable consequences of these conflicts, and in its bid to compensate for the blows inflicted upon the U.S. position — may resort to adventurism in the world arena, especially in connection with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In any case, the impact of McFarlane's trip to Tehran, the emergence of contradictions in remarks by high-ranking U.S. officials, and the revelation of contradictions between the behind-the-scene policies of the White House and publicized policies, highlight the fact that the U.S. leadership — contrary to what the Western mass media wanted to propagandize — lacks the necessary harmony, efficiency, and alertness. Second, the nations that are struggling for their independence — by observing the principle of determination and alertness — can inflict irreparable blows on U.S. policy. Third, McFarlane's futile trip to Tehran and its impact practically showed that during this period the Islamic revolution of Iran has actually forced the U.S. leadership to finally confess — after more than 8 years of plotting and aggression — to the strength and harmony of this revolution as a regional power. This is a big confession, one that stems from the strength of Islam and the pious who — under the aegis of their faith and unity of word — have been able to record bright and proud pages in the history of liberation struggles by the world's oppressed nations in the name of Islam and of Muslims and to bring about an unprecedented development in the history of the world's nations.

Mosque Prayer Leader Detained by Saudi Security

LD151523 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA — Prayer leader of Imam Husayn Mosque (AS) in Dammam (Saudi Arabia) Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Nasser was detained by Saudi Arabian security forces on Thursday July 9. No report is yet available on his fate, according to reports reaching here from Arabia.

The reports also say that the mosque there was also closed. Three mosques in Dammam have so far been shut down by that country's security forces.

Velayati To Visit FRG in 'Very Near Future'

LD160501 Tehran IRNA in English 0458 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA — Informed diplomatic sources disclosed here Wednesday night that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will pay an official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) in a very near future.

Although no official statement has been so far released by either of the two countries, the sources say that Velayati's visit to the FRG will take place in response to Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's trip to Iran three years ago.

It is said that under the present sensitive situation in the region, Velayati is expected to outline Iran's viewpoints to Bonn officials on developments in the Middle East as well as international issues. Bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest are among topics to be discussed, the sources added.

Charge, Bahraini Official Discuss Ties

LD151825 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA — Iran's charge d'affaires in Manama 'Abbas Shoukouhi discussed expansion of Iran-Bahrain relations with Bahraini Deputy Interior Minister Shaykh 'ali Ibn al Khalifah in that country's capital today. Also discussed at the meeting were problems relevant to Iranian nationals residing in Bahrain.

Reportage on Current Fighting, Searches of Ships

Communique No 2,898

LD151645 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA — Iraqi forces incurred substantial losses in men and equipment throughout the fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants Tuesday, said a military communique here Wednesday.

The 2898th Joint Staff Communique said that exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern fronts raging somewhat

more heavily in the Majnun Islands where at least 10 enemy soldiers were killed.

A large number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded, parts of enemy positions set ablaze and several of their munitions dumps destroyed in the northwestern and western fronts by Iranian artillery fire yesterday. Iranian patrol convoys successfully gathered intelligence on key enemy positions in the abovementioned fronts, dealing effective blows on them before returning safely to bases.

Iranian gendarmerie forces responded to Iraqi artillery fire in parts of the southern fronts yesterday, destroying 10 enemy gun emplacements and several vehicles.

The artillery fire of Iranian forces inflicted heavy casualties on Iraqi troops and disrupted movement of enemy vehicle columns in Yabis and northern Hur, southern fronts, yesterday.

Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi warplanes were checked by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in Sumar, western fronts, Tuesday.

Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and searched four oil tankers and cargo ships in the Strait of Hormuz Tuesday, but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying cargo for Iraq. They also prevented two Iraqi vessels from approaching al-Bakr oil platofrm in the northern tip of the Persian Gulf, the communique concluded.

Iraqi Positions Under Fire

LD151812 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., July 15, IRNA — Iranian artillery fire on a large Iraqi armoured column in Basra-al-'Amarah highway destroyed eight tanks and military vehicles Tuesday night.

A group of enemy troops were also killed or wounded as a result of the shelling which halted movement of the column.

Meanwhile, artillery fire of Iranian combatants, stationed on Majnun Islands, demolished seven Iraqi munitions dumps and more than 10 gun emplacements, watch posts and group bunkers in the areas overlooking the islands.

The shelling killed or wounded a number of enemy soldiers, and sent heavy smoke billowing into the sky.

Government Responds to Karachi Bomb Blasts

Ziaul Haq Comments

BK151550 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has announced that the government is taking the necessary steps to prevent terrorist activities in the country. Addressing a news conference in Karachi today, the president said that the federal government, as well as all provincial governments, are taking steps jointly in this regard.International help is also being sought as required. He added that the results of these steps will soon be apparent. He said that the elements responsible for these crimes against innocent people must first be identified. The president asserted that the saboteuers' apparent aim was to create fear and panic among the people. He noted that the best way to foil the designs of these elements is to face the situation with courage. The president affirmed that the way in which the people had participated in the relief work and had come forward to donate blood are glowing examples of national unity.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq assured the people affected by the bomb blasts that the government will pay them compensation. He gave this assurance during his visit to the Bohri Bazaar and the Empress Market where the explosions occurred yesterday. Governor Ashraf Tabani, Chief Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani accompanied the president. Talking to residents in the affected areas, the president assured them that the damaged buildings will be repaired and that the Sind governor and chief minister will pay special attention to the problems of those affected by the blasts. He asked the people to keep their morale high and to face such national challanges with courage and valor. The local administration officials and area residents briefed the president on the bomb blasts.

The president later visited the Jinnah postgraduate medical center to enquire about the welfare of the people injured in the explosions.He visited every wounded person and inquired about his welfare. He also directed medical personnel to provide the best treatment to the injured and to make every possible effort to ensure their recovery. The president said that he was greatly saddened after hearing about the bomb blasts and that is why he had personally come to Karachi to inquire about the welfare of the injured.

Situation Reviewed at Meeting

BK160358 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq reviewed the situation arising from Tuesday's bomb blasts in Karachi with federal and provincial assembly members and senior officials at a high-level meeting held in Karachi yesterday evening. The federal and provincial assembly members were briefed on the steps being taken to deal with the situation and to provide relief to the injured and the bereaved families. The meeting was attended by Sind Governor Ashraf Tabani, Chief Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, Federal Housing and Works Minister Haji Mohammad Hanif Taiyub, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani.

Administrative heads of various investigating organizations of the government also met in Karachi yesterday to review the situation created by the explosions which took place in the (?central) area of the city last Tuesday. A special team to investigate various aspects of the blasts was formed at the meeting in order to ensure that the culprits would be apprehended without delay. The meeting also held a lengthy discussion on the variant information collected by various organizations and expressed the hope that a definite conclusion would be formulated in this regard.

Those attending the meeting were told that survey work has been initiated to estimate the extent of overall damage to property. A special relief commissioner has also been appointed to provide immediate relief to those affected by the tragic incidents. Apart from this, participants at the meeting were informed that the government has also taken special protective measures at important places in the city.

The provincial and municipal authorities in Karachi and Karachi Development Board officials have begun to survey the damage caused to buildings and shops. Officials from the Building Control Authority have also inspected the affected buildings to ensure public safety. The bomb disposal squad has made a second sweep of the area and the rubble is now being removed. Work has begun in an effort to check environmental pollution in the area for the sake of public health.

Junejo Curtails Trip

BK160228 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo is returning directly to Karachi [from Japan] this afternoon, cutting short his foreign trip. He made this decision in view of the tragic incident arising from the bomb blasts in Karachi on Tuesday [14 July] evening.

Opposition Leader Terms Foreign Policy 'Dangerous'

BK160903 Karachi DAWN in English 5 Jul 87 p 3

[Text] Faisalabad, July 4: Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan, chief of Tehrik-e-Istiqlal, has termed the present foreign policy dangerous and useless for the country.

He reiterated that the number of enemies has been increased and that of friends has decreased because of our defective foreign policy.

Addressing a meeting here on Friday [3 July] he said "our foreign policy is dictated by the U.S. and we are protecting the American interests in the Gulf region." "Pakistan can never defeat the USSR, even with the American aid and no American soldier would ever come to sacrifice his life for the sake of Pakistan", Asghar Khan said.

He further contended that the present regime was working on a divide and rule policy and there was no shortage of psuedo-religious leaders who were trying to impose Shariat [Islamic jurisprudence] Bill on the people and make National Assembly ineffective. Shariat Bill he said, was an attempt to divert the public attention from the deteriorating conditions. This bill was a step in the chain of confusion being created, he added.

Explaining his point further, he said, "Religion has no concern with the statecraft."

He termed the present economic policies against the people's interests exclusively favouring the capitalists and privileged classes.

He said corruption had become a part of society and had reached its climax in the present regime and what troubled more was the fact that the rulers themselves were confessing the worst kind of corruption in the bureaucracy as well as parliamentarians. The regime itself was corrupting the public representatives by providing them huge funds in the name of so-called development project, he added.

He called for a public debate on the defence issues. He said funds were being wasted in the name of defence, he claimed that if the defence expenditure was properly and judiciously managed half of the present budget could be easily saved.

Warning on 'Dire Consequences' of Pro-U.S. Policy

BK160913 Karachi DAWN in English 5 July 87 p 6

[Text] Karachi, July 4: Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo, President, Pakistan National Party [PNP], has cautioned the people against "dire consequences" to Pakistan if the present policy of "safeguarding the US strategic interests in the region" was carried to its logical conclusion.

For, he said, the USSR and India could not be expected to countenance such a contingency and if there was a "positive reaction" from their side, Pakistan would not be in a position to contain it.

Mr Bizenjo was talking to *Dawn* here on Saturday in the context of the situation developing in the Strait of Hormuz.

He criticised the latest utterances of President Ziaul Haq which, in his view, indicated Pakistan's role as a "guarantor of US interests in the region, following the toppling of former shah of Iran."

Asked to elaborate on the US global interests the PNP chief said they were to have control over the Indian Ocean, keeping the channels and waterways of Arab oil safe and invulnerable, to undo the Iranian revolution, have hegemony over the Gulf States, expanding undeclared war in Afghanistan, and to destabilise India.

Saying that the Gulf was at the heart of overall South Asian and Near Eastern strategic situation, Mr Bizenjo said he was sure Iran would not allow American hegemony over the Strait of Hormuz. The result will be that if Iran reacted, the US was likely to instigate its "satellite states" to retaliate, thus causing grave international complications.

Replying to a question about the possibility of a left-wing unity, Mr Bizenjo said he did not foresee in the near future that left-oriented parties would come on a single platform.

His contention was that the political parties — both Left and Right — were passing through a process of alignment and realignment and till such time when things got settled down, no move for unity of the leftist forces would succeed.

Mr Bizenjo explained that all the political parties were finding it difficult to reorganise themselves to a decade-old process of depoliticisation carried on by the "autocratic regime." Besides, he said, some pro-US forces in the region also did not want to see democracy in Pakistan.

Asked about the proposed all-party moot, Mr Bizenjo said every democracy-loving and progressive element would welcome the move. As for the PNP it would attend such confernce with full sense of responsibility and would help make it successful, he said.

His attention was drawn to reports of differences in the MRD on the question of holding an all-party moot. Mr Bizenjo denied that the MRD was indifferent, opposed or disinterested towards the move and said that except for a note of dissent by Malik Mohammad Qasim's Muslim League all other constituents of the MRD were earnest about the proposed conference.

He said he wished Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan would not have rushed to the press to express his disapproval of the move and hoped that he would retrace his steps and participate in the conference. To him, Maulana Fazlur Rahman's and Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani's proposals for an all-party conference were one and the same.

By-Elections Reported Postponed; Curfews Announced

BK141536 Hong Kong AFP in English
1445 GMT 14 Jul 87

[Text] Colombo, July 14 (AFP) — Sri Lanka on Tuesday postponed byelections for 16 vacant parliamentary seats in the war-torn north and east of the country. State-run radio said the postponement was ordered by President Junius Jayewardene. No reason was given.

The 16 seats fell vacant following the refusal by members of the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front to comply with an amendment to the Constitution that compels all parliamentarians to uphold the unity of the country. Nominations for the byelections were to have been accepted Wednesday, and according to earlier announcements the actual voting would have taken place in August.

Tamil guerrillas have been fighting since mid-1983 for a separate Tamil state in the north and east of predominantly Sinhalese Sri Lanka. Reliable sources said Tuesday that guerrillas from the strongest Tamil militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, were locked in tough combat with security forces to gain a foothold in the Vadamarachchi area. The district had been cleared of guerrillas in late May.

Sources also said that in Mullathivu, in the northwest, cadres belonging to the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students were preparing for an attack on security forces.

Official sources did not comment on these reports.

The Tamil newspaper *Virakesari* said Tuesday security forces in the Vadamarachchi area had started combing the entire area for separatists. Security forces clamped a curfew on the area Sunday and aerial and land attacks were made to flush out separatists, it said. *Virakesari* also said a 48-hour curfew was enforced in parts of Mullaithivu and that heavy troop movements had been noted.

More than 6,000 people have died in Tamil-related violence in the past four years, according to unofficial estimates.

Indian Envoy Meets With President, Ministers

BK150501 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Excerpt] The Indian high commissioner in Colombo met the Sri Lankan president and senior ministers yesterday as part of the intensified Indian diplomatic efforts to try and resume the peace process in the ethnic conflict.

In the Jaffna peninsula, at least 70 people have been killed over the past 3 days in battles between the security forces and the militants. Delayed reports from Jaffna say 10 soldiers were killed in a landmine blast on Sunday [12 July] in Vadamarachchi area.

The Indian High Commission has denied charges that relief supplies meant for the people of Jaffna have been diverted to the Tamil militants. A spokesman of the commission pointed out that the distribution of the supplies has been handled by the Sri Lankan authorities headed by the government agent in Jaffna. [passage omitted]

'Cruel Irony' Evidenced in Recent Indian Terrorism

BK160835 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0818 GMT 16 Jul 87

["OANA/POOL" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 16 (*Lanka Puwath*) — The mass circulation English newspaper the *Daily News* today in its editorial captioned "Terrorism in India" states that the brutal slaughter of over 70 bus passengers in the Punjab last week has triggered off a variety of measures by the Indian Government against terrorism on the sub-continent: special squads, the reinforcement of security forces, and a prolonged curfew in several areas of old Delhi. No truck with terrorism, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has declared.

One would have thought that the Indian authorities would have recognised its perils long ago.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi has come out strongly against the attack on innocent civilians riding a bus. He has called the attack brutal, savage and barbarous. No one will quarrel with his indignation of unprovoked assaults on harmless people.

Meanwhile, in Sri Lanka, people will be forgiven if they wonder why he does not — with equal vehemence or with the same conviction — condemn the attacks of Tamil-Nadu-linked separatists on defenceless hamlets, on sacred places like Anuradhapur and on innocent Bhikkhus [Buddhist monks] also travelling by bus in our land.

Are crimes less revolting, less savage and barbarous when they are committed against people who are not Indians? The people of this island deplore all killings, whether in India or here. Indeed, we take no delight even in having to open fire on young Tamil guerrillas, whatever their record. We do so only from necessity.

But there is a cruel irony in the situation that the Indian authorities are facing today. There is the strongest evidence that they once gave material support to the various militant groups that were menacing women and children here. Our terrorists are armed with equipment obtained in — or through — India.

They were trained in training camps based in India.

The Indians were willing enough to export terror to this small island. Today, they find the flames they fanned on their frontiers, against our interests, sweeping in their own direction.

If Sikh terrorism is to be condemned, how is the terrorism of Tamil Tigers to be excused? India has lost both face and her own sense of security at home.

The Congress Party is now facing internal fissures of its own. Even at the forthcoming presidential election, some cross-party voting is expected to take place. It is probably true of life to say

that duplicity, like malevolence, comes home to roost. India is being plagued by the very anxieties and sufferings that she was willing to view with cynical detachment within our own shores.

For all her size, she seems to have lost much of her moral authority, much of the confidence her neighbours once placed in her, and much of the stability she inherited from British rule.

Perhaps, Soviet support is the strongest factor that Mr Rajiv Gandhi has to count on. Will that dependence lead to Russian suzerianty over what was once the home of India's warriors and wise men? Whither the great Indian dream of Swaraj [independence) or the re-discovery of India?.

Villagers Issue Appeal Against LTTE 'Goon Squads'

BK140939 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0922 GMT 14 Jul 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 14 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Residents in the chain of villages in Jaffna's Vadamarachchi area have formed peace committees and appealed to the LTTE terrorists to leave the area and allow them to resume their normal lives and live in peace, Jaffna sources told *Lanka Puwath* today. This included the people of terrorist leader Velupillai Prabhakaran's native village Velvettiturai.

But the terrorists who were earlier driven out of Vadamarachchi by the security forces have replied by setting fire to the area's leading girls school and going all out to prevent students from sitting the General Certificate of Education (GCE) examination.

Jaffna sources said that thousands of villagers who were receiving free food and being rehabilitated by the Sri Lankan Government had sent a message to LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran saying "You have caused us enough misery. Please leave us alone now and allow us to resume our normal, peaceful lives".

The sources said the LTTE gang of terrorists were trying various gimmicks to restore their fallen image, after they were trounced and routed at Vadamarachchi. Hence, they were trying to impress the people by having goon squads clad in black and styling themselves 'Black Tigers'. Fifteen of these Black Tigers were killed by the security forces last Sunday when they tried to enter the Vadamarachchi area.

Jaffna sources said that the terrorists had launched a peninsula wide campaign through the regional papers aimed at re-building an image of strength. "But residents know these reports are highly exaggerated", said the sources.

Meanwhile, official sources said the government was going ahead with its rehabilitation work in Vadamarachchi. The commercial banks, too, were open and all measures were being taken to keep terrorists out of the area.

Official sources said another significant fact was that the LTTE terrorists have abandoned open confrontations with the security forces, but instead resorted to using explosives. This showed they had weakened considerably.

Low-Level Terrorist Activity Reported in North

BK150915 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0808 GMT 15 Jul 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 15 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Three armed LTTE terrorists stopped a Northern Regional Board bus bearing No. 28 SRI 1968 and abducted M A Gaffoor, J.P. and his son Rafeek who were going home in the bus, yesterday at Ananda Puliyankulam, Mannar District, Sri Lanka, the Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath*.

Mr Gaffoor is the coordinator of the Northern Regional Transport Board.

The LTTE terrorists' aim seems to be to disrupt normal operations of bus services in the area.

A number of search operations by the Special Task Force (STF) revealed a very large stock of land mines hidden by the LTTE terrorists when they were in occupation of Karavanai, Karavetty, Polykandy, Navindal, Velvettiturai and Udupiddy areas in the Jaffna District.

Sporadic mortar fire was directed at the Jaffna Fort the Palaly and Tolagatty camps last night.